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REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

Miscellaneous Observations and Opinions on the Continent. By the Author of "the Life of Michael Angelo," and "the Subversion of the Papal Government." London 1825.

From the manner in which this book is ushered into the world, we should consider it as meant for private circulation; but an advertisement, prefixed, informs us that "this is part of a work, if the public should wish its continuance; and the whole, if otherwise." Whether the public should wish its continuance or not, certainly does not depend upon the author, who, from some motive or other, does not choose to give that public the ordinary opportunities of judging. That Mr. Duppa is well known among literary men is true; and that Messrs. Longman, Hurst, Rees, Orme, Brown, and Green, by whom (the title page tells us) his *Miscellaneous Observations* are "sold," might publish it advantageously, is equally notorious: but it is as undoubted a fact, that but for accident throwing the volume in the way of some Reviewers, who would take the trouble of being obsequious upon the occasion, the production of Mr. Duppa's pen might engender only cobwebs and dust, without being heard of beyond that horrible Row, where the fate of still-born offspring would draw tears from those who never shed one drop for the prevalence of infanticide in China, or even for the story of Medea. We hate pandering for popularity, and love the spirit which despises it; but among the multitude of chains upon public attention, it is absolutely necessary to enable the public to form a decision by making it, at least, acquainted with the most unostentatious pretensions. Were this not done, quackery and puff would carry all away; as they now do far more than their just share. There is no more intemperance in the Many than in the Individual; and a man might hold a candle for a thousand years in the middle of the grand Sahara, without any persons finding out that he meant thereby to enlighten mankind.

We do not intend to say, that Mr. Duppa has illuminated us in any marvellous degree. On the contrary, he has committed to the press a jumble of notes, not improved by polish as relates to style. *Rudes indigestae* are his desultory scraps on France, Switzerland, and Italy: there is no (or at any rate a poor) arrangement; but still the book is, to our taste, wonderfully pleasant. It fatigues not; it follows no itineraries, as if one were compelled to travel every stage with every traveller that ever travelled over beaten ground; and if it be unconnected in its salutory movements, there is a print at every hop, skip, and jump, which will reward the exertion, and not be readily forgotten.

The vignettes, plates, and cuts, (of which about a dozen are on Indian paper,) are beautiful; and worth the price of the volume. But there are many amusing and intelligent points in it besides; of which we shall endeavour to convey an idea by a few extracts;—brief, as the author invariably is, and avoiding, as he does, common-places. Suppose him (as we do) at Paris, and among other sights, examining the *Gobelins* Tapestries—He flies, next sentence, to the following:

"Duels are frequent in Paris, and often among

people of lower condition in life than in England. Instead of the small sword, it is common to fight with a foil, with the button filed off, and sharpened to a point.

"The houses in the streets in Paris are numbered with even numbers on the one side of the street, and odd numbers on the other; by which means, in a long street, there is a convenience in knowing, by the first number, on which side of the street any particular house is to be found; and this is more especially a convenience where the numbers do not terminate with the street, but include a district, or *arrondissement*.

"In London, this improvement has been adopted for the first time in Regent-street, which is a long and picturesque street, and, though the architecture may not be very good, yet it is a great improvement to a street to have any architecture at all, rather than to have rows of houses with flat walls like Portland-place, which, though a fine brick street, yet, when compared to the High-street in Oxford, or the Strada Balbi in Genoa, might be taken for national granaries, or the barracks of a great military empire.

"There are two ways of dining at Paris; the one, at your own *hôtel*, and the other at a *restaurant*; the former is most conformable to the character of an English gentleman. At the latter you can order your dinner to a mouthful; but to have every dish cleaned that is not before you, is a retail mode of dining, unfavourable to English feelings, and an exercise of too nice a calculation for comfort.

"In France, there is the same superstition as in England, that if it should rain on a given day, it will afterwards rain for forty days; and their saint, which corresponds to our St. Swithun, is St. Meda, and the ominous day, the 8th of June."

One of the paragraphs here is almost a Bull:

"Where the Temple prison stood is now a church, not yet finished; and the site of the ancient monastery is degraded into a rag-fair."

But we continue (long pages between) various notices. At Tours, in the public library, "is a model of the geometrical staircase of the monastery of Marmoutier, said to have been the first that was ever constructed upon that principle. This monastery, of which the reigning King of France was always a monk, was one of the most ancient in the kingdom, and richly endowed; but reduced to ruins in the Revolution."

At Toulouse "is the most ancient literary society in Europe, originally founded by seven Troubadours as early as 1323, and known then by the name of the *Gai Consistoire*. Towards the end of the fifteenth century, the endowment of this institution was greatly augmented by *Clémence Isauze*, the Sappho of her time, who was a rare example of considerable poetical talents, great wealth, and great munificence. In the city she established several beneficial institutions, and, at her death, bequeathed them to the people of Toulouse for ever, on condition that they should hold an annual feast in the *Hôtel de Ville*, which was built at her expense, and, from thence, carries roses to decorate her tomb; which ceremony is now called *les Jeux Floraux*. In the academy is a marble bust of André Bernard, an Augustin monk, of whom the inscription states, that he

was a native of Toulouse, and crowned Poet Laureate by Henry VII. of England."

At Montpellier "is a botanic garden, founded by Henry IV., the earliest known to have been established in Europe. It contains about six thousand species of plants: among those that are rare there is a very large *Convolvulus Arberia*. Here is also a collection of vines of every variety of grape grown in France. The funds allowed to support this institution are quite inadequate to do justice to it, or to the professor, M. Delile, who is a man of science, every way calculated to promote its best interests. This garden is very ill supplied with water, which might be amply obtained at a small expense by the aqueduct that supplies the town. This is one of those little injudicious savings, so common and so absurd, that although they occur daily, never fail to create surprise.

"In a part of the garden, by the side of an avenue of cypress trees, there is a marble tablet, inscribed PLACANDIS NARCISSE MANIBUS. Here Dr. Young's step-daughter was buried, whose loss, and her unhallowed interment, he so often laments in his *Night Thoughts*."

Pass we hence through Switzerland into Italy: at Como, in the Palazzo Giovinio (the abode of Paulus Jovius, bishop of Nocera, who died in 1552, and whose palace, with its library and pictures nearly as in its own time, is now inhabited by one of his collateral descendants) we are informed—"The portraits, as works of art, have no particular value, but they are exceedingly interesting, from having been presented to him, either as original pictures, or as copies of the most authentic portraits then known. Here is a profile of Henry VIII. when he was young, the only picture I ever saw of that king in profile: it is carefully painted, the features are well drawn, and it appears to be a faithful representation. Here is also a portrait of Michael Angelo, of which I have never seen any copy. Among the MSS. is a biographical sketch of a life of Michael Angelo, and of Leonardo da Vinci, by Paulus Jovius himself; also an inedited manuscript by him of the illustrious women of his own time. Here are also some inedited MSS. by Leonardo da Vinci. The present Count Giovinio showed me his library."

Our next quotation is of another description of curiosity.

"About a mile out of Milan is a decayed palace, called the Villa Simmonetta, where there is an extraordinary echo. You ascend up to the second floor of the house, and, in a room at the aperture of a large square window, which is opposite to the blank wall of a corresponding wing of the house, the echo has been counted to repeat the report of a pistol eighty-five times. In the echo, I observed this peculiarity, that some words in the same sentence were repeated stronger than others, and did not always regularly and gradually diminish and die away; but, after several faint repetitions, would then return to the ear with increased strength, similar to the effect produced in the Whispering Gallery in Gloucester cathedral, by a person walking round it; the only instance of this peculiarity that I am acquainted with: this effect at the Villa Simmonetta applies

to the sound of some particular words in a sentence, and not to all, indiscriminately. This echo interested Bonaparté very much; he went several times, and used to discharge two pistols at once, and always exclaimed, that it was the most extraordinary thing he ever heard."

But remarkable as was this echo of other men's sounds, Mr. D. gives us still more remarkable account of a learned gentleman who seems to combine in himself a knowledge of almost all men's tongues: D. Guiseppe Mezzofanti, the principal librarian, and professor of the Oriental languages at Bologna.

"He is," says Mr. D. "a plain, unaffected modest man, with such an extensive knowledge of various languages, as it is not easy to credit on any ordinary testimony. Having heard and read of his great fame, I introduced myself to him in the public library; after talking to him some time in English, he said, that he found all the European languages very easy. Of the oriental, the Arabic was the most difficult, from its richness in terms. To acquire the English language gave him very little trouble: this opinion surprised me, and I entered into a discussion with him on some grammatical peculiarities; I also remarked upon the great irregularity of our pronunciation, which he more perfectly understood on principle, than any person I ever talked with on that subject: he was also so obliging as to read a page of an English book, which I took from a shelf in the library; and, in reading and speaking, he never made a single mistake. The only sign of peculiarity was, that in speaking, he employed a word occasionally, not of colloquial use, but which, nevertheless, was perfectly correct as to the sense."

"So far I can speak from my own knowledge, and a Polish Countess, whom I knew perfectly well, and who speaks German, Russ, and French, as native languages, in common with her own, told me, that she conversed with him in all of them, and, to the best of her judgment, he understood and spoke them as well as she did."

"A German officer, with whom Mr. Rose dined at Bologna, said, that he should not have known him by his language from being a native of Germany; and Mr. Rose's servant, who was a native of Smyrna, said, that he might pass for a Greek or a Turk as far as he was able to judge. In the course of conversation I asked him how many languages he knew; he said, about forty, and that he could speak about thirty, but that he had so little practice in speaking the oriental languages, that he spoke them with less fluency than the European. To add to the wonder of these attainments, he has never been out of Italy, and, I believe, Florence is the greatest distance he has ever been from Bologna."

"Here," Mr. D. continues, speaking of the suppressed Convent of Certosini, now a public burying ground, near Bologna, "in a room appropriated to skulls, is the skull of Guido, mounted on a bracket, with this inscription on it: '*Guido Reni pittore celebre ritrovato nello studio del celebre scultore annato. Ercole Lelli.*' Guido died, August 18, 1642, and was buried in the chapel of Santa Maria del Rosario, in the church of St. Domenico, in Bologna."

"In St. Luke's academy in Rome, Raffaello's skull is preserved in a glass-case. In the French

academy, is preserved the skull of Des Cartes. In the library at Ravenna, is exhibited the skull of the Cardinal of Pavia, who was killed at Ravenna, by the Duke of Urbino, in 1511. Whether these exhibitions are fitting, or not, I leave others to determine."

"In Ravenna there are numerous ancient sarcophagi, on which are sculptured, in bas-relief, lambs, doves, and peacocks. In the cathedral are two ancient pulpits, with a row of peacocks on each. In Bologna these birds are represented on a monument to Giles Foscherari, made in 1239. In St. Mark's, in Venice, there are several of a large size in rude mosaic, making a part of the pavement of the church; and the oldest paintings of angels, represent them with wings composed of peacock's feathers. As this bird, in the polytheism of the ancients, was an attendant on Juno, and an emblem of pride, it is singular to see it associated, in the early ages of Christianity, with the dove and the lamb."

This is only another striking proof of the grafting of early Christianity upon Heathen rites; but we are carried to another State.

"In Venice, the Capuchin Friars are restored, and the figure of their Saint, receiving the five wounds of our Saviour!!

"In the small and obscure church of St. Lucan was buried the 'divine Aretin.' Here I looked for his bust and his monument, but not being able to find either, I inquired what was become of them, and was told, that, when the church was repaired, his monument was buried under the pavement with his bones. This is a singular fate for a man who, when alive, was styled the scourge of princes, and who had the vanity to be the first author that published in his lifetime his own portrait as a frontispiece to his works."

These pickings from the Observations, &c. on the Continent, will show our readers that there is something original to be gleaned from this work. In short, it is the Note Book of a man, who, upon several subjects, possesses a superiority over most travellers, and who, generally, takes his own views not only of places frequently visited, but of other places not seen by the mere tourist. We hope the "otherwise" of his advertisement will be sequel to this volume, for in spite of its faults it has gratified us much. The engravings, &c. are (as we have said) interesting in choice and execution; and, that we may even exemplify this merit, we have caused a wood engraving to be taken from one of them, which we could get finished most readily. "In Genoa there are no Roman antiquities, except a bronze Rostrum of an ancient Roman Galley, the only one now in existence. It was discovered in the Port on cleansing it, in the year 1597, and is placed over a door in one of the rooms of the Arsenal de terre. The whole length of the Rostrum is two feet four inches, but the boat's head is only eight inches and a half long, so that the hollow part to fit into the prow is nineteen inches and a half, made with four flat sides; diminishing from the base to the head. The width of the broadest side, at the base, is eleven inches, and of the narrowest, four inches and a half."

Of Mr. Finden's etching of this, as given by the author, we present the annexed copy:



There are some excellent fac similes of names famous in history appended to this volume.

The Death of Absalom, a Seatonian Prize Poem. By the Rev. H. J. Beresford, of Clare Hall, Cambridge; author of "Mahomet," a Chancellor's Prize Poem.

THE remarkable simplicity and power displayed in the Poems under the above title, have attracted our attention; and although Prize Poems, generally speaking, possess small claims to notice, and boast of little more than a correct, or, at best, a flowing versification, this successful effort proves that its author is fully aware of the wide distinction that may exist between poetry and verse, as well as that he has possessed himself of the seldom discovered secret by which they may be united.

The Poem opens with the prophetic denunciation of Nathan.

"The shaggy mantle and the cincture rude,
Bespeak the heaven-taught son of Solitude;
But most, th' uncharily glance, the brow severe,
And woe-denouncing arm, proclaim the seer."

Thus the Lord
Forewarns thee, Monarch! never shall the sword
From thy rent house depart. What thou hast done
In secret, shall be wrought before the sun:
Yes, wrought by one, whose weakness so thy stock
Shall barb the shaft, and aggravate the mock."

The Hero of the Poem is thus introduced:
"But who is he, this brave and beauteous one,
Whose mien and vesture speak a monarch's son?"

That lordly neck, which, like a turret-keep
Crowning some bold hill, from the gradual sweep
Of that broad bust springs upward, and sustains
A head whose loveliness with glory reigns.

That seamless symmetry, which is the link
Of loveliness in all we see or think,
Wedding the parts of beauty into one
Harmonious whole, with faultless union,—
Those several, rare-met graces—who is he,
In whom they blend and beam so peerlessly?

Who, but the fated minister of doom,
A scourge and glory? Who, but Absalom?"

We will ask, can any thing be more beautifully picturesque than the following lines?—they breathe colours:

"There is a lonely vale, where winds a stream,
Parting its midmost depth with quivering gleam:
The white wash'd flock come bleating from the brook,
With new-shorn fleeces, and bewildered flock;
The dripping shearers, their moist labour done,
Welcome the warm rays of the cheering sun;
Whilst, from the bank, a statelier group looks down,
Shepherds, whose semblance more befits a crown;
And such they are, Princes in pride and port,
Sons of the Shepherd King, and shepherd swains in spot.
And Absalom is there, lord of the day;
He bade them to the sheering; here are they,—
Here, in the recklessness of pastoral glee;
But Amnon—of the glad, the gladdest he."

The flowing wine from beechen bowls they quaff,
With song, and jest, and lightly summon'd laugh:
But close without, there waits a sterner band,
Arm'd to fulfil their master's dire command;
For Absalom had said, 'Mark, when the wine
Dances in Amnon's heart, this word of mine—
'Smite Amnon.'"

Now, when the pulse of merriment beats high,
And brothers gladden in a brother's eye,
The word, 'Smite Amnon,' bids a brother die!
This done! the revel over, the brethren fled;
Each to his mate, but none to avenge the dead.
And Absalom too, fees, enforced to shun
A father's wrath, fresh sorrowing for his son;
Whilst, inward feeding on the afflicted sire,
The Prophet's woe burns deep, like words of fire."

The revolt of Absalom is thus described:

"The time is ripe for uproar. He hath piled
His flattering wiles o'er Israel, far and wide:
A vow his pretext, a revolt his aim,
To Hebron he hath sped; and with him came
Two hundred, in their simperies, who knew
Nought of his purpose till the trumpet blew.
Through Hebron's cedar'd heights the blast blown:
The cry is—'Absalom on Hebron's throne!'"

The removal of the Ark:

"And lo! those white-robed brethren, with their Chief!
Peace in their port, and stillness in their grief,
Bow'd to the Living God, his Ark they bear:
Its sacred gold beams to the common air;
Its MERCY SEAT, where, with expanded wings,
Bend the bright CHERUBIM, disdainful things
(Long wont in curtain mystery to hide)
The gazing sun's unhallow'd rays aside."

The following passage introduces the battle-field, where Absalom's iniquitous career terminates:

"The word is given. The fight is in the wood. Celars and oaks of Ephraim I ye have stood in peace thro' peaceful years, when nought was heard save the deep cooings of that gentlest bird, The bird of peace and truth. But now the shout of victory peals o'er flight's disorder'd rout. The stock-dove, scared from her unquiet nest. Spreads the bright pinion, flies, and is at rest: While thrice, the loud invaders of her reign, Smile in pursuit, or, yielding, flee in vain."

The peculiar mode of Absalom's death, though obviously difficult to manage poetically, is executed with much address and vividness of colouring. We must pass this over, however, and also David's lament, that we may be enabled to embrace within our limits the beautiful passage with which the poem concludes.

"A pillar rears Its mouldering head amid the waste of years: In deep Engedi's dale it stands alone, A tapering mass of monumental stone— A shapely pile, where all around is rude, But speechless in its holy solitude. Ask ye the circling rocks—(from whose torn bed It slowly reared its desolated head) Raised by the silent column whence it came? Kinned by what hand, or sacred to what name? Answer or speech is none that tells the tale Of the dark pillar of Engedi's dale."

Thus Absalom who reared it: for he said 'I have no son to live, when I am dead, And keep my name's remembrance from the grave.' So his own name to that lone pile he gave. And to this day 'tis call'd 'Absalom's Place'— A monument of glory and disgrace! It might have stood, beneath the sky's blue cope, Emblem of pledgeless love, and baffled hope: A barren type of him whose lonely state Sord o'er his fellows, grand, yet desolate: And many a Pilgrim to that pile had come To leave the sigh for lonely Absalom. It stands a warning beacon, and a mark Of stormy deeds and retribution dark: A loathing heap, a thing to fear and shun, Memorial of a most unnatural son: Cold to the beam, unsoften'd by the shower, Dead to the sweet and renovating power Of Nature, in her best and balmy hour. It speaks of one alike unmoved and scar Beneath a Father's smile, a Father's tear: Of one whose loveless and unloving gloom Gave to the meek affections but no bloom. And when that Pillar, crumbled to the base, Shall leave no tidings of its name or place, The word or ruin, that will not pass away, Shall keep the blasting record from decay."

We should have evinced little consideration for the taste and discrimination of our readers had we paused to indulge in comments on the passages we have quoted—they are sufficiently eloquent to speak for themselves; nor can we pay the poem either a higher or a juster compliment than to pronounce that its tone is most happily concordant with the power and simplicity of Scripture throughout. We trust this is not the last opportunity Mr. Beresford will give us of expressing our opinion on his genius, which we consider to be of a very peculiar order.

The History of Paris, from the earliest period to the present day; containing a description of the Antiquities, Public Buildings, &c. &c. &c. 8vo. 3 vols. Paris, 1825; Galignani. London, Whitaker.

Tax title page sufficiently explains the nature of this publication, which we learn, with surprise, is the first of its kind that has appeared on the subject of the capital of France. The number of able histories of London—including Stowe replete with interest, and Malcolm full of Anecdote, might long since have set an example so worthy of being followed; especially by a city, the description of which is so curious as that of Paris. Yet, curious as it is, the present volumes do not offer themselves to us as being peculiarly eligible for a review. It would be tedious to follow the historical narrative (an *aperçu* of 138 pages); and if we were to enter upon the antiquities or statistics, we might detain our readers till the year 1825 closed upon our Gazette. All we shall do, therefore, is to recommend this

History to notice, and select from it, by way of illustration, a few of the miscellanies which are most novel to us.

"A short time after the peace of Vervins, Henry IV. returning from hunting, dressed very plainly, and attended by only two or three gentlemen, passed the Seine at the spot where the *Pont des Arts* now stands. Perceiving that the ferryman did not know him, he asked him what people said of the peace. 'Ma foi,' said the boatman, 'I know nothing about this *belle paix*, but I know there are taxes on every thing, and even on this miserable boat, by which I can hardly live.' 'But does not the king intend to diminish the taxes now?' said Henry. 'Oh, the king is a good fellow enough,' replied the ferryman; 'but he has got a mistress, who must have so many fine dresses and so many trinkets, and it is we who have to pay all that: *passé encore*, if she belonged to him alone, but they say she has plenty of others to caress her.' Henry IV. who was much amused with this conversation, sent the next day for the ferryman, and made him repeat before the Duchess of Beaufort all that he had said. The Duchess, extremely mortified, wished to have him punished. 'Vous êtes folle,' said the king; 'he is merely a poor devil, whose poverty makes him cross: he shall have his boat for nothing in future, and I am convinced he will shout as long as he lives, *Vive Henri! Vive Gabrielle!*'"

"On the 26th of September, 1587, a Norman, named Chantepie, was broken upon the wheel near the Croix du Tiroir, in this street, for having sent by a footman, to the seigneur de Millau d'Alligré, a box artfully fitted up with thirty-six pistols, each loaded with two balls, which were discharged upon opening the box. It was accompanied by a letter, which stated it to be of curious workmanship, and sent to him by his sister. The footman, ignorant of the contents of the box, opened it in the presence of Millau, who was only slightly wounded; but the footman received three balls in the thigh, and shortly after expired. Chantepie, who was arrested on suspicion, confessing that he had made the box, was condemned and executed. In 1760, a similar machine was sent to a rich merchant of Lyons, by his brother, who was tried, convicted, and condemned to the galleys."

"*Rue Saint Dominique*.—In the year 1768, there lived in this street a miser, whose only pleasure was to count over a sum of 18,000 livres in gold, which he kept in an iron chest. Leaving home for several days, an old woman, his only servant, was left in charge of the house. During his absence, some thieves entered, one of whom wore the costume of a commissary of police, and the others that of his officers. After having announced to the domestic the death of her master, they put seals on every room, and left her in trust of the effects, except the gold, which they took away, giving her a certificate of its removal. A few days after, the miser returned, and the old woman, mistaking him for a spectre, fell into a fit. The efforts made to recover the property were unavailing, and the thieves escaped with impunity."

"Those who remember the beginning of the reign of Louis XIV., know that the streets of Paris were in such a filthy state that the atmosphere was infected by them. M. Courtois, a physician, residing in the rue des Marmouzets, made the following experiment. In his dining-room, which was next the street, he placed two large *chenets* of iron ornamented with brass, which from the effluvia of the streets were covered with verdigrease. Every day he caused them to be cleansed, and in the evening they were again covered. From the period when the streets were regularly cleansed, the verdigrease disappeared."

"A well, named *Puits d'Amour*, (mentioned by the writer,) was so called on account of the melancholy death of a young woman, who, being deceived and abandoned by her lover, threw herself into it, and was drowned. Her father, whose name was Hellebik, occupied an important post in the reign of Philip Augustus. About three centuries after, a young man, in despair at the cruelty of his mistress, threw himself into the well, but received no hurt; his mistress, deeply affected by the circumstance, lowered a rope, drew him up, and promised to be cruel no longer. To express his gratitude, he had the well repaired. Sauval says that, in his time, the following inscription, rudely cut in Gothic letters, was still legible:

"*L'amour m'a refait, En MORTU tout-a-fait.*"

"Under the reign of Louis XIV. the arts of magic were associated with poisoning, and to such a lamentable extent was the practice carried, that, by a decree of January 11, 1680, the king established at the Arsenal a special court to try poisoners and magicians. Several persons distinguished by their birth and titles were convicted and punished. The court pursued with equal ardour poisoners, sorcerers, and venders of secrets. Real and imaginary crimes were confounded; and the virtue of magical operations was believed by the public, because grave judges seemed to believe therein by condemning them."

"An ordinance of July 1682, dealt a deadly blow at these ancient errors. The art was therein called a *vain profession*, and diviners designated 'magicians and sorcerers, corruptors of the public mind, impious and sacrilegious offenders who, under the pretext of exercising pretended magic, profane whatever is most sacred and holy,' etc."

"The diviners and sorcerers were not exterminated by this ordinance; they were, however, no longer condemned as such, but as deceivers, profane persons, and poisoners. It was in this light that, in 1688 and 1691, the *Parlement* of Paris condemned several shepherds of la Brie, who were charged with practising sorcery for the destruction of the flocks."

"The *Carmes-Billettes* were so named from the street in which their convent stood. They were established there in 1632, in the room of the *Frères Hospitaliers de la Charité de Notre Dame*.

"The occasion of the first institution of a convent in this place was very remarkable."

"In 1290, a woman of Paris, who had placed some clothes in pawn with a Jew named Jonathan, for the sum of thirty sous, went and asked him for them to wear on Easter Sunday, promising to return them afterwards. The Jew replied, that if she would bring him a consecrated host he would give her the clothes without money. The woman consented, and having received the communion on Easter Sunday, brought the host to the Jew. He laid it on a table, and pierced it several times with a penknife, when blood flowed from it in abundance; he then drove a nail through it with a hammer; he threw it into the fire, but it hovered about the flames; he then cast it into a vessel of boiling water, which became dyed with blood, though the host received no injury."

"The son of the Jew, a boy, having witnessed these miracles, and seeing the Christians going to mass, said, 'It is useless for you to go to adore your God, my father has killed him.' A woman, who lived near, went into the Jew's house under the pretext of asking for some fire, and taking the host into a wooden bowl, carried it to the curate of Saint-Jean-en-Grève. The Bishop of Paris ordered Jonathan to be arrested, who refusing to be converted, was burnt alive, and his property confiscated."

"François Paris, son of a councillor of the

Parlement, relinquished, in favour of his brothers, all right to his paternal inheritance. He was a deacon whom humility induced to decline the priesthood, and, renouncing the world, he retired to a house in the faubourg Saint Marcel. There, devoted to exercises of penitence and charity, he employed himself in knitting stockings for the poor, whom he comforted and instructed. This simple and beneficent man died on the 1st of May, 1727. His memory would not have outlived the poor whom he succoured, nor his fame have extended beyond the circumference of his humble retreat, but for a concurrence of unexpected circumstances which have given celebrity to his name.

"He died at the same time when the Janse- nists, dissenting from the bull *Unigenitus*, occasioned great troubles in the church of France.

"The memory of Paris was cherished by these men, and they revered him as a saint. His tomb, elevated about a foot above the ground, in the small cemetery of the church of Saint Médard, became the object of their devotion. Among the devotees who came there to offer up their prayers were some young girls, who, either affected by the religious controversies of the time, or previously subject to convulsions, were seized with them whilst engaged in prayer at this tomb.

"These convulsions were reported as miracles, and multitudes flocked to witness them.

"The first convulsions which manifested themselves gave birth, by sympathy, to others.

"In the beginning of May, 1727, the number of actresses who figured upon this sepulchral stage was not more than eight or ten; but the contagion made such rapid progress, that two years had scarcely elapsed, when more than eight hundred persons were seized with convulsions at this tomb.

"The girls betrayed violent agitation, made extraordinary motions, leaped, turned round, etc.; they were called *les Sautieuses*. Others, who howled, uttered strange cries, or imitated the barking of dogs, or the mewling of cats, received the designations of *Aboyeuses* and *Miaulantes*.

"During the first four months, the efficacy of the tomb of Paris was confined to the production of these pitiable or ridiculous scenes.

"The zealots of the party, through conviction or fraud, believed, or feigned to believe, that this effect emanated from the Divine Power,—in short, was a miracle. Hitherto the convulsionists, hurried away by enthusiasm, whether sick or deluded, were sincere. But very shortly men speculated upon the convulsions, and sought to turn them into arms against their persecutors; zeal and party spirit called in imposture to their aid. A society of convulsionists was established; it had a regular organization, chiefs, and subaltern officers; and, like all sects, had its schismatics, its believers, and its martyrs."

We shall conclude with an interesting account of the "*Cimetière de la Madeleine*."—This cemetery, no longer usual as a burial-ground, was a dependence upon the ancient church dedicated to Mary Magdalen, situated in the Ville l'Évêque, and is principally remarkable for having been the place of interment of the unfortunate Louis XVI. and his royal consort. Upon the execution of that monarch, on the 21st of January, 1793, the body and head were deposited in a deep grave in the Cemetery de la Madeleine. The queen, Marie Antoinette, was guillotined on the 16th of October in the same year, and, at her own desire, her remains were interred near those of her unfortunate spouse. For a considerable time the cemetery was guarded, lest any attempt should be made to remove the bodies of the royal victims. The church having been long demolished, it was determined, in 1797, to sell the cemetery by auction.

M. Descloseaux, an ancient advocate of the *Parlement*, who was proprietor of a house contiguous, became the purchaser. He caused the ground to be covered with a layer of new mould, and planted as an orchard; the alleys of the old burial-ground were marked out by rows of trees, and the surface covered with turf. The spot where the royal remains were deposited was separated from the rest of the ground by a hedge, above which arose willows and cypresses; and over the grave of the king a small hillock was thrown up, and surmounted by a cross.

"By a remarkable coincidence, the royal victims were surrounded by many of their most devoted friends, and some of their bitterest enemies. At their feet lay five hundred of the Swiss guards, who perished on the 10th of August; at a short distance, along the wall, were deposited the most distinguished members of the *Parlements* of Paris and Toulouse, the courageous Lamoignon de Malesherbes, and Mesdames de Rosambo and de Chateaubriand, his daughters; the Duchess de Choiseul, the Duke de Villeroy, the Duchess de Grammont, the Count de la Tour-du-Pin, the Marquis de la Tour-du-Pin-Gouvernet, the Count d'Estaing, the civil lieutenant Angrand d'Alleyray; the lieutenant of police Thiroux de Crosne, and the grenadiers of the battalion des Filles-Saint-Thomas, who valiantly defended the king on the memorable 20th of June. A little behind were deposited the bodies of five hundred more of the Swiss guards, who also fell victims to their fidelity on the 10th of August. In the middle of the ground lay Charlotte Corday, who assassinated Marat; and near her the intendant of the civil list, Laporte; Cazotte, du Rozoi, d'Aigremont, the first who perished on the Place Royale for the king's cause; and the eloquent Barnave, who was sacrificed by the populace whom he caressed. On the south were buried Camille des-Moulins, who, with a pistol in his hand, gave the signal in the Palais Royal for the revolution and massacre; Danton, Westermann, Hebert, Chaumette, Brissot, Vergniaud, Gensonné, Gorsas, and Bailly. In the same sepulchre with these party-leaders, were buried many victims of their attachment to the government and the religion of their ancestors. Near them were the ashes of the unfortunate persons who perished on the place Louis XV. and in the rue Royale, in 1770, when a fête was given by the city of Paris upon the marriage of the Dauphin, afterwards Louis XVI.

"Great prudence was requisite on the part of M. Descloseaux to preserve the remains which he had voluntarily taken upon himself to protect. During the absence of the house of Bourbon from France, a few of their devoted servants were occasionally admitted to visit the spot, which the owner was frequently solicited to sell. In 1810, an unknown personage, whose appearance denoted opulence, offered to purchase the orchard at any price M. Descloseaux might fix. A magnificent hotel in Paris, or an estate in the country, was proposed, but he replied:—'Sir, none of your proposals can ever be acceded to. In purchasing this ground I knew the treasure it possessed, and no offers shall make me alienate it; whilst there are laws, I will avail myself of them for its defence; and when there are none, I will seize my musket to punish any one who dares attempt to deprive me of the sacred deposit of which I have constituted myself the guardian. I will restore it to none but the family for whom alone I preserve it; and no vile motive of interest shall ever induce me to yield.' The family of M. Descloseaux collected carefully the flowers which blossomed upon the royal graves, and sent them annually, with slips of the cypresses, to the Duchess of Angoulême in a foreign land.

"Upon the restoration of his Majesty Louis

XVIII. in 1814, the Cemetery de la Madeleine was resorted to by natives and foreigners. The King of Prussia visited it a few days after his entry into Paris. When the Duchess of Angoulême had returned to the palace of her ancestors, her first care was to visit the sacred spot, where, after giving vent to the anguish of her feelings, her Royal Highness said to M. Descloseaux, 'I did not expect to find such faithful Frenchmen. Good old man, you have religiously preserved the ashes of my parents; your family will be blessed.' The Duchess afterwards frequently repaired to the cemetery; and on her last visit was accompanied by Monsieur. The Prince, taking off his cordon of the order of St. Michael, invested M. Descloseaux with it in the King's name. His Majesty also granted him a pension, with reversion in part to his daughters. M. Descloseaux had already ceded the orchard to his sovereign without fixing a price.

"His Majesty having decreed that the remains of the late King and Queen should be disinterred, and deposited in the abbey church of Saint Denis, the ancient burial-place of the kings and royal family of France, the measures requisite to that effect were forthwith adopted."

Galigani's New Paris Guide, just published, appears to be a good abridgment of the same materials with the above, fitted for the pocket, and containing all the instructions which a tourist requires in order to see the most of a place in the shortest time. It has cuts, and even more than the usual minuteness of directions from the setting out from London till the return. To travellers, who do not read French, it must prove extremely useful.

An Inquiry into the Plans, Progress, and Policy of the American Mining Companies. 8vo. pp. 88. London, 1825. J. Murray.

WITHOUT reference to either the justice or the error of the opinions maintained in this pamphlet, we may recommend it to the great number of persons interested in the speculations of which it treats, as an exceedingly smart and well-written performance. Even we (who have nothing to do with mines or money-making) have been taken by its style and ability; and we are persuaded it must have more sterling attractions for those who, being happily unconnected with reviews, literature, or learning, turn their attention to so much per cent. to be gained on a good capital, and so much capital to be gained on a good score.

The Lord Chancellor, it seems, has denounced jobbing, and the author charges him (respectfully) with having done so, without investigating the bearings of the question with the patience of Job. How it stands between them we (like his Lordship) venture to doubt. We have sometimes, in our sapience, fancied that speculation with real monies and well-founded credits, would almost invariably tend to the public weal; and, on the other hand, that mere gambling (though even that might occasionally produce a general benefit) must be detrimental to private happiness and to society in the aggregate. We are inclined to follow Sterne's example with the captive; and when we hear of A. B. realizing a fortune by the rise or fall of a share-price, we cannot help thinking of poor C. D. and E. F. who have been ruined by the same operation. Mr. Rothschild (or whoever else) may walk out of the Exchange another plumb the richer, but the gold and glitter of this achievement are dimmed, when we consider that fifty trusting people may have been robbed of their all to constitute the market triumph; and that sundry poor widows, men of small income, and large families, and other similar classes, seduced by the hope of bettering their circumstances, may

be consigned to penury and prison by a big gambling jest.

The author of this pamphlet dwells with great apparent truth on the want of mining knowledge which, among other drawbacks, prevented the possessors of Spanish America from deriving the wealth they might have drawn from the subterranean treasures of that country. He thence raises the argument which promises success to the employment of British science, machinery, and capital. These are his inferences:

"1st, That the expences attendant on working the mines of America originated in a great measure from the want of system in the interior economy of the mine, and from the imperfection of the machinery employed.

"2dly, That the profits which might have been acquired were diminished nearly one moiety, by the worker of the mine not being also the amalgamator of the ores.

"3dly, That the prosperity of a mine is relative in a certain degree to the supply and to the price of mercury.

"It is therefore desirable, that the interior economy of a mine should be studied, and the powers of machinery employed; that the worker of the mine and the amalgamator of the ores should become the same person; and that the price of mercury should be low and its supply regular."

Whether these objects are attainable he discusses throughout his publication, and states some curious facts in his progress. Without following him throughout, we shall allude to some of these.

"The annual net produce obtained from the American mines under their former management at the beginning of this century, may be stated at eight millions and a half sterling.

"This calculation is made from the accounts given by Humboldt, after a careful examination of the authorities, which he quotes, and a comparison of his data with those of Smith and Raynal. The estimates of these three writers allow for unregistered gold and silver, and Humboldt makes the amount of the influx by more than two fifths greater than the author of 'The Wealth of Nations.'"

Strongly inclined to speculate on these stores of gold and silver in the bosom of the earth, our author first details the various Companies which have been formed to work the mines abroad (and the Stock Exchange at home); and thus excuses or rather defends the general tendency of their operations.

"It is said, that much individual ruin has been occasioned by the fluctuations in the value of the shares of these companies, that these fluctuations conduce to the encouragement of gambling, and to conduct extremely destructive and disgraceful.

"There are two causes which induce individuals to speculate: one their own unbiassed opinion, and the other the representation of a third person. If the speculation be a bad one, 'ruinous consequences' must of course in both cases ensue. In the first case it will be produced by folly, in the second by fraud. We will not consider the case of a person injudiciously acting from honest advice.

"We fear that the folly of man is not subject matter for the legislator. So wild are his conceptions, and so unlimited its range of conduct, that legislators are too wise to anticipate its actions. Perfect wisdom, said the oracle, is to know foolishness, but this is a species of knowledge that mortals must be content to leave to the holy fane of Phocis. Let us avoid however one thing, let us not commit ourselves by rash and extraordinary legislation. The folly of man is temporary as it is destructive, and ere the statute is passed,

which is to 'check' his madness, he is found among the sternest moralists on his own fanaticism.

"Then it is that the statute conceived in haste, and dictated by terror, remains to be a future bugbear to a state of society to which it is not adapted, and to be quoted by scared lawyers, who are the last persons by whom the revolutions of society are discovered."

There is a good deal of sound sense in these remarks; and the following deserve the same praise.

"In conducting the operations of the late war, a great quantity of the capital of England was employed, and on the termination of that war, this quantity became for a moment inactive. The existence of, what was deemed to be, unproductive wealth, confounded the theories of certain politicians, and in the phrase 'surplus capital' they have expressed an idea which is utterly fallacious. The minds of the proprietors of this inactive capital were, however, immediately directed to the discovery of means by which it might be employed. They naturally at first sought for those means in their own country; and in the execution of plans for the improvement of our internal communication, our domestic trade, and national architecture, some opportunities were found for the desired investment.

"But the wealth of this country was equal to mightier ends; and the merchants of Great Britain have disseminated the advantages, which capital bestows, throughout other climes besides the British isles.

"The undertakings of the present day have grown them out of the wealth of the times in which they have been formed. The Mississippi and South Sea schemes grew out of the poverty of the times.

"The Mississippi and South Sea schemes were the unnatural efforts of an impoverished people; unnatural, because they sought by means, which only the greatest influence of commerce, and the greatest extent of international relations, could justify, to extricate a people from a situation which the imperfect possession of that influence of commerce and those international relations had produced.

"Now in proportion as international relations become more extensive, more numerous also become the means and opportunities of employing capital; and, consequently, the least support will be given to means least promising. And thus, as a state possesses wealth and commerce, and thereby extended international relations, will it have more opportunities of employing its capital, and become more cautious, as to the mode of that employment. And thus it is, that wild and groundless schemes are only generated and supported in impoverished states: for the impoverishment of a state always arises from the imperfection of its international relations.

"Intercourse produces knowledge.—We must not confound the spirit of enterprize, which arises from this knowledge, with visionary speculation. The enterprize of the present day arises from knowledge; that knowledge has been gained by the extent of its international relations. The South Sea shares rose 2 or 300 per cent. in one day, without any data having been given, by which the public might have formed an opinion as to the nature of the property which they were purchasing. In the present day, an imperfect or indefinite prospectus throws a cloud immediately over the shares of the company; for, in proportion as the acquaintance with the subject matter of a speculation is limited, is its depreciation in value. Were the South Sea scheme to be introduced to the notice of the world to-morrow, there is every reason to believe that its shares would go to a discount.

"Thus, far from the present being a time in which the Legislature is called upon to interfere, from the anticipation of the same evils as attended the Mississippi and South Sea schemes; we, on the contrary, have a right to infer, that there never was a state of society from which those evils were less likely to ensue."

We will not say that we are entirely convinced by these arguments; but they display a comprehensive judgment, as well as an acute skill in supporting a favourite theory, by endeavouring to found it on principles undeniable in themselves. Indeed, we find the writer always smart, even where he fails to gain our assent; and his castigation of the Quarterly Review, as well as intelligence on the subject which has employed his pen, (a subject of great importance) will cause him to be read with avidity.

Gaieties and Gravities; a series of Essays, comic Tales and Fugitive Vagaries. Now first collected. By one of the Authors of the "Rejected Addresses." 12mo. 3 vols. London, 1825. H. Colburn.

We hate Collections. The first Collection we remember was as the name of a Book, by means of which we were pumelled into our acquaintance with the English tongue. We cannot forget the Collections after Charity Sermons in great platters at Church doors, and in little wooden boxes with long handles, at meeting-houses. We are not unacquainted with Collections, where the Duke of York, or his Grace of Sussex, or some other distinguished individual, is good enough to preside, for the benefit of some benevolent institution at the Freemasons's Tavern. These and other like points of knowledge, have made the very name of a Collection of doubtful scent in our nostrils; and we entirely, in our literary opinion, agree with Dr. Donne:

"Thou shalt not peep through lattices of eyes,
Nor hear through labyrinths of ears, nor learn
By Circuit or Collection."

Not having the fear of Dr. Donne before him, however, one of the authors of the Rejected Addresses has had the temerity to collect the immense number of his miscellaneous pieces, comprehended in the title-page, into these three volumes, and in this form give them a second time to the approving public. He has done wrong, though he pleads the experience and the expressed wish of his publisher to justify him: (by the bye, the latter may be a tangible home argument notwithstanding). Most of these gaieties and gravities, essays, comic tales, and fugitive vagaries, have already appeared in the New Monthly Magazine, a publication too generally read to afford them much chance of being received as novelties. But even independently of this, and of the merit of many of these productions, they do lose their charms by being huddled together in so heterogeneous a compilation. Let any one take a whole garden of beautiful, sweet-perfumed, exotic, and variously tinted flowers, the blooms which made an acre gay and delightful, and let them all be thrown into a room or a great basket; and where are their charms? So it is with such a mingled mass as this. A hundred things which were pleasant and grateful as varieties in the New Monthly Magazine, are here blended together in confusion and antipathy. They distract the mind, which cannot in a swift round traverse the compass from pain to pathos, and enjoy in juxta-position the pages of Cockney caricature and acute observation. In short, though there are many clever papers and much talent displayed in these volumes, we do not think it judicious to have collected them: yet we are bound to say they are amusing lounge-books for dipping into at odd times.

DE GENLIS' MEMOIRS:—LAINGS' AFRICA.

We have, in several Nos. separately considered the leading features of these two recent publications: in this Gazette we shall combine all we have to add respecting the first volume of the former, and the whole of the latter. Philosophers tell us, that human nature is always, and everywhere, the same;—but surely it is with a difference. For instance, Madame de Genlis draws the following picture of French human nature, as improved by courts:

“Madame de Joui had two children, a boy brought up with them called M. Thoinard, who was then fourteen; he was handsome, serious, studious, and passed almost the whole of the day shut up with his tutor; he has since fallen in Corsica: the other was the Countess d'Esparbès, then twenty-two, and who is living at the moment I write this; she was very little, very short-sighted, with dull blue eyes, and a nose somewhat irregular; she was red-haired, and very pretty, though her physiognomy was not agreeable; but she had a beautiful skin, a fine mouth and teeth, and lovely hands. In speaking of these pretty hands, I recollect to have heard her relate, that, at supper in the king's private apartments, she was ordered to peel cherries for Louis XV., who always ate them in this manner, dipping them in sugar. Madame de Joui said one day to my mother, in my presence, that the dazzling whiteness of the hands of Madame d'Esparbès cost her dear, for that she often caused herself to be bled without any necessity, merely to preserve their beauty; yet the whiteness of her skin was not at all like paleness. She came from time to time to pass two or three days at Chevilly; she was gay, graceful, and amiable. Madame d'Amblimon, and Madame d'Esparbès, were then the favourites at court of Madame de Pompadour, who gave them in private strange titles of friendship; she called the one *Dishelout*, and the other *Slut*. This was not the fashion among the mistresses of Louis XIV.”

Major Laing, on the other hand, draws the following picture of African manners (in the capital of Soolima):

“In domestic occupations the men and women appear in many respects to have changed sexes; with the exception of sowing and reaping, the cares of husbandry are entirely left to the females, while the men look after the dairy and milk the cows; the women build houses, plaster walls, act as barbers and surgeons, while the men employ themselves, as in Egypt, in sewing, and not unfrequently in washing clothes. When young, they are in many instances exceedingly beautiful; but the hard labour which they commence as soon as they enter the married state, and which may be regarded as a kind of bondage, soon destroys the charms with which nature may have gifted them, and they become at an early age even disgustingly ugly. Like all other African females, they are loose in morals, &c.

“The infidelity of the women is a never-failing source of litigation here, as in all other countries, where, from want of being treated with due respect, they have no character to uphold: they have one privilege, however, which, as far as I could learn, is peculiar to Soolima; they may leave their husbands for the sake of their gallants, provided they can repay the amount originally given for them to their parents. If infidelity is proved, and they are unable to satisfy the injured party in this respect, their heads are shaved, and they are held up to ridicule and scorn; whilst the paramour becomes the slave of the husband. Their courtship is merely the ascertaining and payment of the sum demanded by the parents, accompanied by the king's consent, who receives his title.”

How different, again, are the French!—Attend to Madame de Genlis!

“M. de Conti was the only one among the princes of the blood who had a taste for literature and the sciences, or who could speak in public. His face, person, and manners, were imposing; no man could say obliging things with more delicacy and grace; and in spite of his successes among the women, there was not, in his manner, the slightest trace of coxcombry. He was, moreover, the most magnificent of our princes; at his house, you felt as if you were in your own. At the Isle-Adam, each lady had a carriage and horses at her command; and not being obliged to go down into the saloon till an hour before supper, she was at liberty to ask parties to dinner daily in her own apartments. As the Prince did not dine, he wished to save the ladies the trouble of going down into the dining-room, and the annoyance of sitting at table, where a hundred other persons dined. Ceremony was reserved for the evening; but during the day you enjoyed perfect liberty, and all the charms of private society. What a pity that so amiable a prince should have had the singular passion of affecting sometimes an air of despotism and harshness, which, by no means, belonged to his disposition! I shall here mention an instance, of which I was witness one day, as we quitted our room to go into a neighbouring one, to hear mass celebrated. M. de Chabrian stopped the Prince of Conti, to request his orders relative to a poncher who had just been apprehended. At this question the Prince of Conti, raising his voice very high, replied coldly, ‘A hundred blows, and three months’ imprisonment,’ and then pursued his way with the most tranquil air possible. Such coldness, joined to such cruelty, made me shudder. In the afternoon, meeting with M. de Chabrian, I could not refrain from mentioning the poor poacher, and the barbarous sentence pronounced by the Prince. ‘Oh!’ said M. de Chabrian, laughing, ‘this was only addressed to the audience. I know him well; none of his tyrannical orders, given in public, are ever executed; as for the poacher, for whom you are so much interested, he will merely be banished from the Isle-Adam for two months; and, during that time, Monseigneur will secretly take care of his family, which is very numerous. Such were the orders he gave me on leaving mass.’ ‘What!’ rejoined I, ‘is it not then a first emotion of anger which makes him pronounce such odious sentences?’—‘No,’ he replied, ‘it is merely done for effect; he wishes, from time to time, to appear formidable and terrible.’

“The Prince of Conti has been too much praised for what was then called his *firminess*. Such an eulogy must have been highly flattering to a prince of the House of Bourbon; it is the only praise (since the time of the regency) which flattery could not venture on; and, in order to merit it, the Prince of Conti affected the tyrant, while his heart overflowed with sentiments of humanity.”

But in Soolima—

“The dead are followed to the grave, and committed to the ground in perfect silence. A day is fixed within a month after interment, to

“The old Countess of Rochambeau once related to me a beautiful trait of the Prince of Conti's gallantry and magnificence. Madame de Blot, then very young, one day said in his presence, that she wished to have the portrait of her country in a ring. The Prince offered to give her the portrait and the ring, which Madame de Blot accepted, on condition that the ring should be mounted in the simplest manner, and not set with stones. The ring was, in fact, only a plain hoop of gold, but, instead of a glass to cover the portrait, a large diamond had been used, which was ground as thin as glass. Madame de Blot discovered this piece of prodigality, and returned the diamond; upon which the Prince of Conti caused the diamond to be ground into powder, and used it to dry the ink of the letter he wrote on the subject to Madame de Blot.—(Note by the Author.)”

make custom for the deceased; when a party, proportionate in extent and in the mode of entertainment to the consequence of the family, assemble in the yard of one of the relatives, and spend the day in merriment of the most extravagant nature; the men by dancing, shouting, and firing guns; the Jelle-men by playing and singing; and the women by dancing in groups: it is a very remarkable circumstance, that on these occasions, and on these only, the women are permitted to exhibit indecent gestures.

“The manner of salutation is extremely becoming, and cannot fail of instantly attracting the attention of a stranger: after placing the palms of the right hands together, they are carried to the forehead, and from thence to the left breast, signifying that while the head is right, the heart will be sincere. In approaching a man of rank, or an elder, they take off their shoes previous to salutation; and respect to the king is shown by a bend of the left shoulder.

“They are passionately fond of music, and fonder still of flattery, which is lavishly bestowed upon them by the Jelle-men, when they have liberality and means enough to pay for it. The Jelle-men appear to answer the description of the Gallas of Abyssinia, who amuse the rich people in the morning and evening, and exaggerate their merits. The principal instruments used are the kora, in sound and shape resembling a guitar; the ballafou, which I have already described; different-sized drums; and a flute with three notes, which is only used as an accompaniment to other instruments, and is sometimes introduced with tolerable effect.”

We will not, however, fatigue our readers by pursuing this parallel—this simile with dissimilitude—any further. We have still a duty to discharge towards the more interesting parts of Major Laing's work:

“Soolimana, which is the proper country of the Soolimas, is about sixty miles in breadth from north to south, and extends from the present site of Falaba to the left bank of the Joliba or Niger; the country, however, which they occupy, is a strip of land in the Kooranko territory, bounded on the south by the river Rokelle, on the north by Foutah Jallon, on the west by Limba and Tamisso, and on the East by Kooranko and Soolimana, which latter, since the wars with Foutah Jallon, is merely used as farming ground, and resided upon only temporarily. The face of the Soolima country is picturesque in the extreme, being diversified with hills, extensive vales, and fertile meadows, belted with strips of wood, and decorated with clumps of trees of the densest foliage. The geological features, like those of all countries in Western Africa, are of no particular interest; the hills are of primitive formation, composed of a light whitish granite, being principally mica and feldspar, with occasional strata of red and blue mica slate imbedded on the granite. The valleys consist of a rich vegetable and mineral soil mixed with sand, formed by the constant decay of the former, and the debris of the latter annually washed down by the sweeping torrents incidental to the climate. This soil is remarkable for its fertility, and requires little labour preparatory to the reception of the seed: it is not so in the Timannee and Kooranko countries, where trees must be felled and shrubs burnt, a labour of some weeks before seed-time; but in Soolimana the weeds are merely rooted out by the hoe, and being collected in divers heaps, are permitted to decay; and although the ground receives no manure, the crops are richer and more luxuriant than those in the other countries, where the soil is enriched by the potash of the burnt shrubs. When the ground is cleared, the seed is scattered over its surface much in the

same manner that corn is sown in England; it is then gone over with the hoe, which implement of agriculture first turns up and then smooths the ground, supplying the place of both plough and harrow: the hoe resembles in shape a carpenter's adze. After sowing, which is generally before the 15th of June, the Soolima leaves the farm to the care of his wives until October, who, in the early stage of growth, bestow some attention in keeping the crop clear from weeds. Early in October, the harvest takes place, when they mutually assist each other in getting it in. The rice is cut with a small knife, shaped like a reaper's hook, and being tied into small sheafs or bundles, is suspended for some days with the head downwards, from the stumps of trees or from stakes driven for the purpose: the seed, when perfectly dry, is beaten from the straw by a stick with a knob and crook at one end; it is then scalded in hot water, spread out to dry for a few days, and at length deposited in the granary, where in this state it will keep perfectly sound for a season. If they desire that the rice should be white when beaten in the trough in which it is always prepared for use, they dry it in the sun without the operation of scalding; but so prepared, it does not keep so long, nor does it beat so well from the chaff, as much is lost in power. The small rice, or fundé, goes through the same process, and is used principally as a sort of sauce or soup to eat with the other. The yams are planted as potatoes are in England, and the ground-nuts as field-peas. The country does not produce many fruits; the principal and most plentiful are bananas, pines, and oranges; the first only in any degree of perfection. I have already noticed the numerous herds of cattle which are to be seen adorning the face of the country: in addition to these the Soolimas rear sheep, goats, and poultry; the latter of a very diminutive sort: they have a few very fine horses, which have been brought from Sangara and other inland countries, but they are not indigenous to Soolima, and every attempt made by the present king to breed them has failed. The wild animals, though numerous, are confined to few genera: these are the elephant, buffalo, a species of antelope, monkeys, leopards, and wolves.

"The principal towns belonging to the Soolimas are all situated in Kooranko; these are Falaba the capital, Sangouia, Semba, Mousainh, and Konkodogore, containing in all about 25,000 souls. Falaba appears to have been built in the year 1768, by Tahabaere, the father of the present king, as a strong place of protection for his people against the Foulahs. It derives its name from the Fala Ba, or river Fala, on which it is situated, and is a town of considerable extent, being nearly a mile and a half long, by a mile in breadth, and closely built, when compared with the generality of native towns in this part of Africa. It contains upwards of 6000 inhabitants when all are assembled, but this seldom happens except on festivals, as a great part are generally absent on warlike excursions, or at the neighbouring farms."

Such, (with the characteristics already quoted) are the Soolimas; and, attaching far more importance to them than we should be inclined to attach to any African tribe, the author is earnest in persuading us that it would be of infinite consequence to get them to traffic with Sierra Leone: In little spheres, mens' minds become little; as they enlarge where great objects are placed before them. Major Laing, at this period, (very naturally) thought that the most momentous concern on earth, was the opening of a road for some two hundred miles, through a miserable set of barbarians, from Falaba to our Coast Settlement.

"The example," says he, "of one free interior

nation, which should voluntarily adopt white man's laws, white man's habits of industry, and white man's religion, (and such might be the Soolima nation by proper missionary exertion,) would prove far more beneficial to the general cause of African civilization and conversion, than all which we either have, or are likely to accomplish at Sierra Leone.

"It would be essential, however, that the missionary to the Soolimas should be a person of good common sense, and of respectable knowledge in the affairs of the present life; and that his conduct should be strictly agreeable to his religious profession; because he would not find himself, as at Sierra Leone, placed in authority by the British government, nor obtain, as the organ of its bounty, the respect which would not be given to him independently of his station.

"I am aware of the exertions of the Missionary Society to obtain suitable persons for their missions, and of the difficulties which they experience in so doing; I am also aware that, without their missionaries, the towns of liberated negroes, established by the government, would have had no teachers whatsoever: I rejoice in the good which they have accomplished, although I am far from thinking that so much has been done, as might and ought, under the very efficient support and large expenditure of the government, and particularly under the continual and anxious personal attentions of the late governor. But I cannot but be sensible also, and so must every one who has been at Sierra Leone, of the evil occasioned by the necessary inefficiency of a private society to fulfil the office of a national church, in the supply of proper persons for the religious instruction and superintendence of the government-towns. It has happened to myself to have seen one missionary lying drunk in the streets; to have known a second living with a negress, one of his parishioners; and a third tried for the murder of a little boy whom he had flogged to death: in spite of precaution, such accidents as the mission of improper persons will occasionally happen; but that system does not work well, in which the removal of such individuals requires a representation from the governor of a colony to the secretary of a private society, who becomes the judge whether the governor's objection shall be acquiesced in or not. This inconvenience is the more sensibly felt, when the objection is on the ground of incompetency, rather than on that of immorality. The disposition and qualifications which fit an individual for preaching the Gospel to the Heathen, are not precisely the same as those which are most suitable in the superintendence of settled and already educated Christian communities. The formation of social habits, and the preservation of social order; the encouragement and direction of industry; the establishment and duties of magistracy, require a different class of persons from the missionaries, who, upon principle, concern themselves only with the considerations which directly regard another world. For the objects mentioned above, and which are essential to the permanent good order and well being of a community, there is as yet no adequate provision."

Though we do not deem so highly of either mode (in connection with the poor Soolima tribe) as the author, there is yet much worth pondering upon in his opinion, as it affects the general question of missionary labours. We find them too often, with the purest intentions, wretchedly di-

"* I do not here allude to the growth of the few articles which an African needs for his immediate support, and which require no exertion of his industry to procure; but to the cultivation of exportable produce, on the lands which government has annexed to the respective towns, which will enable the individuals, by the possession of property, to rise in the scale of civilized life."

rected. In the East Indies and America, as in Africa, their progress has not been shining: but still, their success in some parts of the world may reconcile us to the system and to its boasts. Assuredly the lights are not hidden; and there are foes in the field: but looking at both these sides of the question, the puffing of friends and the opposition of adversaries, it does seem to be an enlightened duty, worthy of civilization not to speak of religion, to propagate truth and knowledge among the uninformed portions of our species. It would be well if the teachers were, nine times in ten, more competent to their tasks, but there are many difficulties attending the selection; and few men who can do, in a worldly sense, well at home, will devote themselves to the toils and privations of missionary appointments. What says Major Laing?

"Considering the special purpose for which the colony of Sierra Leone was originally formed, the length of time that has elapsed since its formation, and the influence it has acquired amongst the nations of Western Africa, it is a remarkable fact, that not a single missionary is to be found beyond the precincts of the colony; and that even within the peninsula itself, on which Freetown is built, are several native villages, in a peculiarly deplorable state of barbarism, which have never had the advantage of even beholding a missionary."

We shall add very little more to what we have said. The author gives a curious account of an annual festival-working-day, in which all the people, as in sport, do the King's agricultural work. He has also some speculations upon the Niger; and though we do not feel their strength, yet as he was so near the fountain head, we shall conclude by quoting them.

"The point from which the Niger issues was now shown to me, and appeared to be about the level on which I stood, viz. sixteen hundred feet above the level of the Atlantic; the source of the Rokelle, which I had already measured, being fourteen hundred and seventy feet.* The view from this hill amply compensated for my lacerated feet.

"I had but one ungratified wish, which was, the power of visiting the source, to lay down its position accurately; one good day's march, if the country had been favourable, would have enabled me to have reached it! How truly then did I lament the obstructions which were thrown in my way: having ascertained correctly the situation of Konkodogore, and that of the hill upon which I was at this time, the first by observation, and the second by account, and having taken the bearings of Loma from both, I cannot, however, err much in laying down its position in 9 deg. 25 min. N. and 9 deg. 45 min. W.

"Regarding a river of such importance as the Niger, which is looked upon in the negro world as the largest river in the universe, there are naturally to be found, amongst such superstitious people, many extraordinary traditions; it is said, that although not more than half a yard in diameter at its source, if any one was to attempt to leap over it, he would fall into the spring, and be instantly swallowed up, but that a person may step over it quietly without apprehension of danger; also, that it is forbidden to take water from the spring, and that any one who attempts it will have the calabash arrested from his hand by an invisible power, and, perhaps, lose his arm; but the enumeration of all their absurd fictions would be tedious. The river at its source bears the appellation of Tembie, which, as I learnt, signifies 'water,' in the Kissi language;

"* Height of the mercury in the barometer, at the source of the Rokelle:—

Sept. 3d, at 10 P. M., 28.50; therm. 73.
Sept. 4th, at 6 A. M., 28.50; therm. 72."

it runs due N. for many miles to Kang Kang, the course being marked by a ridge of hills, which branch off at right angles from the chain running eastward from Sierra Leone; of this northerly branch Loma forms a part; and the continuation is, in all probability, the mountains of Kong, the position of which has been so long doubtful. On entering Kang Kang, the river takes a more easterly direction, and loses the name of Tembie, being known by the synonymous appellations of *Ba Ba*, and *Joli Ba*, 'Large River,' which it carries to Sego, Jinne, and Timbuctoo, after which the name of Joliba is lost amidst a multiplicity of designations, real and conjectural."

BUCKINGHAM'S TRAVELS AMONG THE ARAB TRIBES.

We can this week only complete the outline of the portion of Mr. Buckingham's work sketched out in our last Gazette: we shall afterwards take him up on his journey from Djebel-Hauran.

At Adjeloon (Ajalon) "there were only two Christians in the place besides our host, and as these were not present among the groupe that surrounded us on our arrival, they were sent for, when the kissing and greeting of our first meeting was again repeated.

"After we had satisfied the curiosity of our Mohammedan visitors, they gradually dispersed; and being now left alone, or with Christian companions only, the conversation became more free and unconstrained than while they were present."

"Our supper consisted of a dish of rice, peas, and onions, all stewed together in oil; and ungrateful as such a mess must naturally be to an English palate, my appetite was rendered so keen by hunger, that I literally and truly enjoyed it, and made a hearty meal. By way of dessert, some walnuts and dried figs were afterwards served to us, besides a very curious article, probably resembling the dried wine of the ancients, which they are said to have preserved in cakes. Those of which we now partook might also be called wine-cakes: they were of the shape of a cucumber, and were made out of the fermented juice of the grape formed into a jelly, and in this state wound round a central thread of the kernel of walnuts; the pieces of the nuts thus forming a support for the outer coat of jelly, which became harder as it dried, and would keep, it was said, fresh and good for many months, forming a welcome treat at all times, and being particularly well adapted for sick or delicate persons, who might require some grateful provisions capable of being carried in a small compass, and without risk of injury on a journey.

"In the village itself, and not far from the dwelling of our host, I was taken into the house of a Mohammedan family to be shown what was justly considered to be the greatest curiosity in the place. The lower part of the room into which we were introduced was appropriated to the cattle of the family. It was about fifteen feet square, and was surrounded by a bench of solid rock, about two feet broad, and two feet high. In the upper surface of this bench or raised seat were hewn, close to each other, separate troughs or cisterns of about eighteen inches square, and nearly two feet deep. At one corner of this singular apartment was a trough or cistern, with an outlet for conveying the water through the building; and beyond the walls of it, in the same direction, were seen the remains of a small subterranean chamber, hewn out of the rock, and ornamented with stucco on its walls. The most curious part of all was the pavement of the first room, which was a sort of Mosaic work, formed of very small stones united together on a bed of cement below them. The persons who showed us

this apartment asserted that the stones were of various colours, naming white, green, red, yellow, and blue; but if this were really the case, the surface was now too dirty to enable us to perceive the variety of colours described. It appeared to me, at first sight, to be a thin layer of natural stone, liable to break in squares, as I had before seen a layer of that kind only a few inches below the surface of the earth, near the spot where the Roman sarcophagus had lately been dug out of the rubbish; but, on a closer examination of the whole, I thought it to be really an artificial work, as the joints were in many instances too ill-shaped to be natural. The separate pieces were, in general, less than an inch square; and, though dark at the upper surface as if stained, were white at the bottom. The stone itself was a coarse marble, and the cement on which the whole reposed was a fine lime. I had no doubt, indeed, after a close examination, that the work was entirely artificial, and as such it might be considered, perhaps, as ancient a specimen of that kind of pavement as any in existence. Were it not for this display of labour and expense, I should have thought the apartment originally meant for a stable, with the square pits hewn in the raised bench running round it for grain, and the large trough in the corner for watering the cattle; but, with a Mosaic pavement in the centre, and the square excavations serving as rude cisterns for water all around, it appeared more probable that it had been a very ancient bath. On the outside of this building, to the eastward, and above the stuccoed subterranean chamber, we were shown another pavement, of a similar kind, the stones being only larger in size, or nearly two inches square; like the former one, this was a coarse white marble imbedded in lime, and resembling, at first sight, a layer of stone naturally fractured into squares, as in the vein of this kind near the sarcophagus already described. It is not improbable but that the hint of this rude Mosaic might have first been taken from nature; consisting originally of a simple imitation of such broken layers, and the idea subsequently improved by all the successive varieties of colour and form through which it must have passed, before the art attained its present high state of perfection."

Here we conclude for the present; and have only to express our surprise at the extraordinary circulation of European news at a place of such inhabitants, and in such an unfrequented situation, as Assalt, where we find them, (p. 120) early in 1816, discussing the restoration of the Bourbons, &c., as fluently as if they had enjoyed a direct intercourse with Frangistan, instead of never having seen but two Franks during the last three centuries.

SIGHTS OF BOOKS.

Second Sight, a Pamphlet of twenty-four pages, in which the triumph of Miss Foote upon the stage is touched with a sketchy, but vigorous hand. We have decidedly and frequently enough recorded our opinions,—the opinions we will say, of all that is valuable and respectable in society, upon the recent conduct of certain managers and performers, who laugh in their sleeves at the success of their trickery and effrontery. These gentry, well knowing how to array Curiosity against Propriety of feeling, have greatly triumphed over the latter. The arts by which this has been achieved are, however, so discreditable to the stage, that it needs no *Second Sight* to anticipate ultimate loss from what may have succeeded by way of temporary speculation. Sound and honourable principles cannot be trampled on without a re-action; and in some shape or other, before three years have passed, our patent

theatres will have to regret what they have done this season. They have almost banished female character from behind the scenes, and with it sterling female talents from the boards; and this evil must go on increasing, till we have no first-rate actresses, whose places will be ill supplied, as far as the drama is concerned, by attractions of another caste. The miserable puffs to which the Newspapers have lent themselves, about Miss Foote and Mr. Hayne, have had the intended effect of filling Covent Garden, to see the lady before she retired; that retirement lies precisely whereabouts it was when this paltry system began. Surely nothing can be more unworthy of a national establishment! Yes, the Kean mountebanking has been still more disgusting. This hero's twenty nights are passed and gone. He has bidden the world a genuine advertisement farewell, at the Drury Lane Theatrical Fund Dinner. He is going for years to the Continent, and his manager is, "like Niobe, all tears." The *rue* takes. London is populous enough to crowd the theatre for a few nights with those who would like to see, for the last chance, an actor who has made himself so notorious; and on Saturday the doughty champion has the impudence to come forward, not only to falsify all his tricky asseverations about quitting the stage, by announcing his return in three months; but to charge the public, which has been far too lenient towards him, with malignity and baseness! Really this is too bad, even for the Gull, miscalled Bull.

Among the new periodical publications which start up every week, we observe one likely to be of more permanent interest than the generality. Its name is "The Linguist, or Weekly Instructor in the French and German Languages;" and its object, to facilitate the study of these tongues. From a hint dropped, we suppose Mr. D. Boileau, an able teacher, to be its author; which we notice here, in order to mention, at the same time, "A Key to the German," &c. &c. Just published with his name,* and a very useful elementary book.

The Papyro-plastics, by the same ingenious person, of which we expressed our approbation some months ago, has reached a second edition, much improved and enlarged. This invention converts a dry scientific study into an amusement for youth.

* Boosey and Son, 18mo. pp. 130.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Paris, March 21, 1825.

The first volume of "The Memoirs of Harriette Wilson," translated into French under her own immediate inspection, has been announced here for sale. The entire publication will form eight volumes, ornamented with a lithographic portrait of the fair or foul authoress.

Messrs. Baudouin, frères, the editors of the Collection of Memoirs on the French Revolution, are about to publish the *Souvenirs de l'émigration à l'usage de l'époque actuelle*, from a manuscript copy found among the papers of the Marquis de Marillac, who died lately. These Memoirs are said to contain several very interesting particulars respecting some of the principal personages who figured in the important scenes of the Revolution.

A new romance, by M. Picard, entitled *L'Honnête homme ou le Niais* (The Simpleton), is also announced for immediate publication.

M. Didot has just completed the first number of his new edition of "Voltaire." The entire eighty volumes are intended to be comprised in one volume 8vo. The types employed in printing this work have been cast expressly for the purpose, and are the same for which M. Didot received the first prize at the late exhibition at the Louvre. Rousseau's Works are also intended

to be published on the same plan, in one volume octavo.

The subject of general interest at Paris for the last few days, is the intended grand representation, for the benefit of Talma, at the Académie Française. All the boxes have been engaged for several days; and it has been this morning announced, that no more tickets can be delivered. The great tragedian is to appear in the part of *Othello*, for this occasion only. He purposes adopting the Venetian costume of the sixteenth century, in place of the Moorish dress which has hitherto been annexed to the part. This change does honour to the taste and discrimination of Talma, and met with general approval at Brussels, where he lately performed the Moor according to his own conception of the character.

M. Soumet's new tragedy of *Jeune d'Arc* continues to be played at the Odeon, with the greatest success. In consequence of the indisposition of one of the principal performers, the representation of the *Cid d'Andalousie* has been postponed. It is to be hoped the author will avail himself of this interval to make some few changes, which are alone wanting to insure the full success of this interesting piece.

A new Journal has been established at Rome, under the auspices of Pope Leo XII., in which religious matters are treated with very great ability. It is intended to contain critical analyses on the new publications in opposition to, as well as in defence of, the Catholic Religion, and treatises on the principal points of the Romish faith, together with the decrees and decisions of the Sacred College.

ARTS AND SCIENCES.

ROYAL INSTITUTION.

DR. ROGET proceeded, in his Seventh Lecture, to treat of the Comparative Physiology of the senses of Smell and of Hearing. The exciting causes of Smell, he observed, are effluvia arising from certain volatile bodies, and conveyed into the nostrils by the air. In some cases, the whole substance is convertible into gas; in others, the odorous matter is of a different nature from the rest of the body, and may be obtained in a separate state: but the extraordinary tenuity and levity of the odoriferous particles, in a number of instances, render it impossible to appreciate them by any instruments which art or science has devised. They afford striking illustrations of the prodigious divisibility of matter. The most copious exhalations from a few grains of musk or assafoetida will be continually emitted, even for many years, without occasioning the least perceptible loss of weight.

The organs which have been provided for the purpose of receiving impressions from the subtle effluvia are, in most animals, situated at the entrance of the respiratory passages. In terrestrial animals, advantage is taken of the necessity of the function of Respiration; and the structure acquired for this function is made subservient to the additional purpose of Smell. In aquatic animals, on the other hand, separate organs are provided especially for this sense.

The cavity of the nostrils is always double in vertebrate animals of the former class, being divided by a middle partition; and the whole of its internal surface is lined by a soft membrane, called the Schneiderian membrane, which is constantly preserved in a state of moisture, and upon which the ultimate ramifications of the olfactory nerves are distributed. These nerves are the first that proceed from the basis of the brain; and their relative magnitude in different tribes of animals, affords an indication of the degree in which this sense is exercised. The numerous blood-vessels which supply the membrane also

contribute to the sensibility of the organ. Several thin and delicate bones project into the cavity of the nostrils, which are evidently intended to arrest the odoriferous effluvia in their passage, and to increase the surface of membranes exposed to their action. In man, they consist of three pair of convoluted bones, which leave three channels for the passage of the air. Several cavities in the neighbouring bones also communicate with those of the nostrils, and have been supposed to be subservient to the sense of Smell; but later anatomists have rejected this opinion, and they are now believed to be useful principally in giving tone and modulation to the voice.

Dr. Roget then entered into a review of the principal varieties which the several tribes of quadrupeds exhibit in the structure of these different parts of the organs of Smell. He noticed, in particular, the great features of distinction between the carnivorous species and those which feed on vegetables, with regard to the relative magnitude of the olfactory nerves, the degree of development of the cribriform lamella ethmoid processes, and upper and lower turbinated bones; and the difference of form exhibited by these several parts. The spiral or convoluted forms of these bones, in herbivorous quadrupeds, were contrasted with their lamellar structure and ramified distribution in the purely carnivorous tribes. These diversities were exemplified in the comparative anatomy of the horse, sheep, goat, deer, and other ruminants; the hedge-hog, mole; the weasel tribe, the dog, cat, and other species of the same genus. The internal organ of Smell in the hog, was shown to be very analogous to that of man, in point of simplicity of structure; while, on the other hand, the greatest degree of complexity is displayed in the prodigiously expanded plates of the inner bones of the nostrils of the seal. This animal has the faculty of closing the orifice of the nostril at pleasure. Herbivorous animals distinguish vegetable odours with greater accuracy than they do the odours arising from animal substances; and the reverse is observed with regard to quadrupeds whose habits are decidedly carnivorous. On the whole it may be concluded that in man the structure as well as functions of the organs of Smell are more allied to those of the mammalia which feed on vegetables, than to those that subsist on animal substances.

Similar distinctions, Dr. Roget showed, may be established among the different tribes of birds. The olfactory nerves are larger, and the nasal bones more developed in birds of prey than in granivorous birds. In the latter, indeed, they are in general exceedingly small, and their functions imperfectly performed. As the food natural to these tribes has but little odour, so we often find that they swallow by mistake substances of a very different nature, which resemble it. Thus poultry have been known to swallow the whole contents of a pot of white paint, which they mistook for their usual food of barley meal and water.

Fishes appear to be sensible of odorous emanations diffused through the water which surrounds them; and they exercise the sense of Smell by compressing the water impregnated with these particles against their nostrils. The nostrils in this class of animals have no connection with the respiratory passages, but are merely cavities situated on each side of the snout, opening externally, but having no other outlet. These external openings appear double on each side, from their being divided by a valvular moveable membrane thrown across the aperture; behind which is found a very elegantly plaited membrane, disposed in semicircular folds, and having the olfactory nerves distributed on its surface. The opinion advanced by Duméril, that the perceptions which fishes have of odorous particles,

should rather be classed under those of Taste than of Smell, in consequence of their affecting the organ in a liquid, instead of a gaseous form, was discussed.

The mode in which odorous effluvia produce their impressions on the organ, was next made the subject of inquiry; and various facts stated in support of the conclusion that it was in consequence of a chemical action upon the expansion of the olfactory nerve; or rather that this action was excited through the medium of the fluid, with which the nerves are surrounded, and constantly preserved in a state of moisture. A number of proofs were adduced that all animal and vegetable bodies are continually sending off very subtle effluvia, which our organs are not sufficiently acute to perceive, unless when they are much concentrated, but of the existence of which the actions of the inferior animals furnish abundant evidence. To predacious animals it is a sense of the greatest importance, and appears, in different instances, to guide them from great distances in the discovery and pursuit of their prey.

Dr. Roget proceeded to give an account of the Physiology of the sense of Hearing; by which animals are made sensible of the minute vibrations of the particles of elastic substances. The manner in which these vibrations are produced, and the mode by which, in conformity with the mechanical laws which regulate the phenomena of collision among elastic bodies, they are propagated through the air, or other surrounding medium, till they are received by the ear, were fully explained and illustrated. The progress of the sonorous undulations was then followed, in their concentration by the sinuosities of the external organ, and in their transmission through the meatus externus, till they impinge upon the membrane of the ear-drum, by which that passage is closed. The anatomy of the internal parts of this curious and intricate organ was described; preparations of all the parts were exhibited; and all the descriptions rendered intelligible by drawings, on a scale of sufficient magnitude to allow of their being distinctly seen at a distance. As it would be impossible, without similar assistance, to convey any satisfactory ideas of the form and arrangement of these minute parts, we shall not attempt to engage in the details connected with this subject, which were stated by the lecturer; and shall decline entering into the labyrinth, as it is so aptly termed, of the internal ear, unprovided with the only clue which could conduct us safely through its windings. We shall only remark, that it is in these tortuous passages, which compose the labyrinth of the ear, that the aerial vibrations, received through the tympanum, or ear-drum, produce corresponding undulations in the fluid which fills these passages; and that these undulations become divided into two series, each conducted through separate spiral channels in the cochlea, till they are made to unite, and produce more concentrated impressions on the delicate filaments of the olfactory nerve, which are expanded to receive them.

From the structure and economy of the ear in man, Dr. Roget descended to the consideration of the corresponding organs in the inferior animals. These present a very considerable diversity, both in the form and degree of complication of their parts, and their adaptation to different modes and pursuits of life. After surveying these differences in terrestrial animals, he proceeded to the review of this function in the aquatic tribes; water being the medium of sound to the latter, as air is to the former. Experiments were stated, from which it appears that water conveys sounds with more intensity, and to greater distances, than air. This fact, together with that of hard and solid bodies being also

good conductors of sound, are consequences of the laws of corporeal action, relating to the compressibility and elasticity of the particles of these bodies within a certain limited range. We find, accordingly, that fishes are exceedingly alive to impressions of sound; and that although there is no external passage for receiving the undulations of the water by which sounds are propagated, the internal organ is considerably developed, and a complete apparatus provided for the exercise of this sense.

This Lecture was concluded by an account of the successive addition of parts which may be traced in the comparative anatomy of the organs of hearing, in following the order of gradation from the crustacea, through the different tribes of fishes and of reptiles, to the more complicated structures that are met with among birds and mammals.

ASTRONOMY.

Evening Amusements for April.

Although not strictly consonant with our usual plan of only noticing the *Evening Phenomena*, yet we cannot forbear making a few remarks on the appearance of the Sun during the past month. On the 27th February, several spots appeared on the eastern edge of the Sun's disc, to the northward, which on the following day were more clearly defined, and presented a very remarkable and novel form, covering an extensive space. One spot was of considerable magnitude, with two light streaks issuing to a great distance. The atmosphere surrounding the spots seemed to be in violent commotion, and occasioned several alterations in their position. March 2, at two o'clock in the afternoon, their appearance was considerably changed, and the atmosphere disturbed at some distance from the spots without being connected with them. On the 4th day, at three o'clock in the afternoon, the direction of the spots was much altered; and while observing, two spots suddenly appeared near the large one, which at places was partially covered with a cloudy darkness. On the 5th day, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, the connected form of the spots strongly resembled a scorpion, and we could distinctly count upwards of thirty, while the whole number probably exceeded fifty. On the 8th day, many of the smaller spots had united, and the whole appearance changed; particularly in the great spot, which was much increased in size. On the 12th day, they were upon the western edge, and could not be accurately described. During the appearance of these spots, the Sun's atmosphere, to the southward, was likewise agitated; and on the 13th, a spot appeared near the Pole. The centre underwent a similar commotion without displaying any dark spot, and thus it has continued in different parts of the Sun's disc down to the time of our writing. Whether these changes have any connection with the expected comet of Mr. Pond, we cannot at present determine; but, from previous observations, we are induced to suppose this to be the case. To those of our readers who possess good telescopes or microscopes, we would recommend a daily observation.

The most beautiful and brilliant object for our evenings this month, will be the planet Venus, with four digits illuminated to the westward, which will gradually diminish, though increasing in splendour, and towards the close, her horns may be discerned by the naked eye, the cusps pointing to the eastward. On the 1st day she will have been about one degree to the westward of Pleiades, and the following evening (to-night) will have approached near to Taigeta, occulting several minute stars in her progress. On the 3rd day she will pass that star, and on the 4th will present a most beautiful appearance among the

northernmost of the seven stars, close to Asterope. The rapidity of her motion may now be traced, and for several evenings the combination with the Hyades, Pleiades, and Saturn, will be found exceedingly interesting, and amply reward the attention of the observer. On the 8th day, Venus, Saturn, and Aldebaran, will be in a line with each other; and on the 23d and 24th, Venus and Saturn will only have seven minutes difference of longitude; but as the former becomes stationary on the 27th, there will be no conjunction. The greatest brightness of this planet will be about the 15th day, when it may be seen in the daylight. On the 20th, it will be in conjunction with ϕ and κ of Taurus. This month will also present the best opportunity throughout the year for observing the planet Mercury, which will be at its greatest elongation on the 22d day, about 50° to the westward of Pleiades, and 140° to the westward of Venus. A line drawn from Venus through the Pleiades will point him out. For several days before and after the 22d, if clear, Mercury will be visible at eight o'clock in the evening, W.N.W. about 10° above the horizon.

Phases of the Moon.

☉ Full Moon	.....	2d	18h	24m
☾ Last Quarter	.....	9	17	10
☾ New Moon	.....	17	21	20
☾ First Quarter	.....	25	12	39
April 22, δ (Mercury) culminates	.....	1h	17m	
— sets NW. $\frac{1}{2}$ W.	.....	9	17	

Mercury and Mars will be ϕ on the 7th day, and the Moon will pass Mercury on the 19th, at $16h$. Previous to setting, they will appear about 40° apart.

April 1, Venus culminates	.....	2h	45m
— sets NW. $\frac{1}{2}$ W.	.....	11	3
— 25, ϕ culminates	.....	2	4
— sets NW. $\frac{1}{2}$ N.	.....	10	45

Moon passes Venus on the 20th. On the 21st, soon after sunset, they will be seen near together.

April 1, Mars culminates	.....	0h	53m
— sets W. b N. $\frac{1}{2}$ N.	.....	7	45
— 25, ϕ culminates	.....	0	32
— sets NW. b W. $\frac{1}{2}$ W.	.....	7	58

Mars passes from the constellation Pisces into Aries. On the 18th day ϕ Moon and Mars.

April 1, Jupiter culminates	.....	7h	40m
— sets NW. b W.	.....	15	36
— 25, ϕ culminates	.....	6	16
— sets	.....	14	11

Jupiter, with a progressive motion, is in the constellation Cancer throughout the month, and will again pass the cluster of minute stars. During his progress, he will occult a star of the 9th magnitude, which will be a conspicuous telescopic object among his satellites for several evenings. The eclipses before midnight are,

1st Sat.	2d Sat.	3d Sat.
Emersions.	Emersion.	Emersion.
D. H. M. S.	D. H. M. S.	D. H. M. S.
3 11 17 —	30 9 33 35	29 7 54 —
12 7 40 37		
19 9 35 24		
26 11 30 35		

No eclipse of the 4th satellite will be visible to us.

April 1, Saturn culminates	.....	3h	27m
— sets NW. b W.	.....	11	15
— 25, ϕ culminates	.....	2	10
— sets	.....	10	2

The Moon will pass Saturn on the 20th day, and soon after sunset of the 21st, will form a pleasing combination with that planet and Venus. On the 21st, ϕ Saturn and ϵ Taurus.

April 1, Georgian rises SE. $\frac{1}{2}$ E.	.....	14h	41m
— culminates	.....	18	40
— 21, ϕ rises	.....	13	30
— culminates	.....	17	28

The Moon and Georgian will be ϕ on the 9th day, and on the 25th, this planet becomes sta-

tionary: it is still in the constellation Sagittarius, with but little variation. On the 7th day, at $10h$, stars on the meridian are—part of Hydra; Crater; the hind part of Leo and hind part of Ursa Major (Pointers on meridian). Part of Cepheus at lowest depression north. 25th day, stars on the meridian are—Corvus; body of Virgo; Coma Berenices; tail of Ursa Major and tail of Draco. Cassiopeia and part of Andromeda at their lowest depression north. This month will afford another favourable opportunity for viewing the myriads of stars in the Via Lactea, &c.

LITERARY AND LEARNED.

MILTON MSS.

We expressed, in our last, a confident expectation, that where the MS. of Milton, now so much the object of literary curiosity, was found, it was most likely that other interesting papers might be discovered. It was our hope that further search would be made at a convenient season, and that that search would be well repaid by the discoveries consequent upon it. We, however, did not anticipate that the hope then indulged would so soon be realised, and that it would be ours thus early to announce that the inquiry has already been made, and that the result is such as to throw no discredit on our conjecture. We now learn that, by the persevering exertions of Mr. Lemon, Deputy Keeper of State Papers—(the gentleman to whom the learned world are indebted for the discovery of the work now about to appear)—several very curious and interesting papers have been rescued from oblivion. They make us acquainted with facts, hitherto unknown, relative to the official situation of the Poet; and also communicate several particulars relative to his family affairs. They give some account of the property of his brother Christopher, and his father-in-law, Mr. Richard Powell, of Forest-hill, Oxfordshire. The whole of these papers, communicated by Mr. Lemon to his superiors in office, have by them been laid before Mr. Todd; and a Life of the Poet, by that eminent scholar, incorporating the documents we have mentioned, may be expected in the course of the ensuing autumn, prefixed to a new edition of Milton's poetical works. Among these papers we can state will be found, the orders of Cromwell's Council to Milton, addressed to him as Secretary for Foreign Languages, with notes of the salary paid to him, from time to time, for his services in that capacity.

ORIENTAL LITERATURE.

The Committee to whom the Petition of the Trustees of the British Museum, relative to Mr. Rich's Collection of Manuscripts, Antiquities, and Coins, was referred, have examined several witnesses, as to the importance and pecuniary value of this Collection; and from their Report to the House, which is of extreme literary interest, we select all those parts which are literary; only abridging a few concurrent opinions as to pecuniary value.

The Collection consists of three parts, viz. Manuscripts in the Arabic, Persian, Turkish and Syriac languages, and a few printed Books; Gems and various Antiquities, chiefly collected in the neighbourhood of Babylon and Nineveh; and Oriental, Greek, and Roman coins.

Manuscripts.

Dr. M'Bride, Laudian Professor of Arabic in the University of Oxford, recommended the purchase of the Collection of Arabic, Persian, and Turkish manuscripts, as the Museum is particularly defective in that department of literature, and especially as there is little probability of so large and well selected a library being again offered for sale.

Dr. Nicoll, Professor of Hebrew in the University of Oxford, considered the Collection of MSS. in the Persian and Arabic languages, as containing a great number of the most esteemed works in both languages, in excellent preservation and of great antiquity. The Syriac MSS. he thinks also of considerable value; and that the whole Collection is more valuable than any which has been brought into England since the time of Pococke and Huntingdon, and so extensive and well selected, that the loss of it would be almost irreparable to the National Museum of this country.

The Rev. Samuel Lee, Professor of Arabic in the University of Cambridge, stated, that the MSS., taken on the aggregate, are the best he had seen collected by any one man; considered the Collection as unrivalled, from the importance and variety of matter it contains; and that the placing it in the British Museum would be conferring a real benefit upon the nation. Mr. Lee was requested by the Committee to examine the MSS. more minutely, with a view of giving his opinion respecting the condition and value of the MSS., and particularly as to the Syriac part of the Collection. He represented the Syriac to consist of 68 volumes; there is one copy of the Philoxenian version of the Gospels, which is valuable; he only knows of one other copy, which is at Oxford. There are copies of the Nestorian and Jacobite editions of the Peschito version of the Scriptures, there being no other complete copy of the Nestorian edition in any of our libraries. The Nestorian and Jacobite sects separated as early as the year 500, and continued their editions in their own churches; the collection of them may be important on certain disputed passages. Some of the copies are a thousand years old: they are not all perfect, but as much so as they are generally found. There are two copies of the Gospels and two of the New Testament perfect, with the exception of the Apocalypse. After having examined more particularly the Collection, Mr. Lee stated, that the MSS. are much less mutilated than he had before supposed; there is a History of the Persecutions of the Nestorians, which he believed to be unique; there is an old Chronicle, which he considers as a very curious historical document; it is written in Syriac and Arabic, in parallel columns, the Arabic in the Kufic character; it gives the dates of the bishops, and various persons of the Syriac churches, of the Persian kings, and of the dynasties of the East and West; he thinks it difficult to set a pecuniary value upon the Syriac part of the Collection, but had it been offered to the University of Cambridge, he would rather that 1000*l.* had been paid for it, than the University should have lost it, though he thinks that sum a little above the value. With respect to the remaining part of the Collection; he has examined accurately a fourth part of the Arabic, Persian and Turkish, and which he believes to be a fair specimen of the whole; they are extremely valuable, because they are the best books in those languages. They consist of history, poetry, and grammar; commentaries on each, and commentaries on the Koran; there are also works on geography, mathematical works, and generally works on the sciences. There is also a copy of the Koran in the Kufic character, which is, perhaps, the only copy in Europe. This Collection of Arabic, Persian, and Turkish MSS. is the best he has ever seen made by one person, and he thinks it cannot be worth less than 5,000*l.*

Dr. Young ascribes the same value to it.

Sir Gore Ouseley valued the Persian, Arabic, and Turkish part of the Collection, at from 4,000*l.* to 5,000*l.*; they would sell for more if taken back to Persia.

Mr. Hine was assistant to Mr. Rich, and resided with him many years at Bagdad, and kept his accounts. Mr. Rich paid between six and seven thousand pounds for the Arabic, Persian, and Turkish MSS.; he does not know what was paid for the Syriac MSS., or for the medals or antiquities.

Mr. Terriek Hamilton had examined the MSS.; thinks the generality of them in better condition than are usually met with; the selection is a good one. He thinks the value of the Arabic, Persian, and Turkish part of the Collection, worth about 8,000*l.*

Mr. Colebrooke represented the MSS. as a valuable Collection; they are in good order, and have been well selected; but he had examined them only cursorily.

Colonel Baillie and Mr. Trant, members of the Committee, concur in these opinions; as does Sir John Malcolm, who has examined the Arabic and Persian MSS. but does not know any thing of the Syriac or Turkish; states that he has purchased Oriental MSS. for many of his learned friends, and that Persian MSS. have, within the last five or six years, risen in value considerably. Mr. Foss and Mr. Darling, booksellers, valued the printed books, one at 100*l.* the other at 90*l.*

Mr. Henry Ellis, keeper of the Manuscripts of the British Museum, stated, that there were very few Oriental MSS. in the British Museum, and none in the Syriac language.

Coins.

Mr. Marsden had examined the Collection of coins and medals. There is one coin, a Kufic Derham, represented to have been struck in the 79th year of the Mahomedan era, which he believes to be worth 100*l.*; there is only one other similar which is known, belonging to the Royal Academy of Sweden.

The value of the Collection, independent of the Greek and Roman part, he estimates at 1,000*l.*; he includes, in this valuation, the Parthian and Sassanian coins.

Dr. Wilkins had examined this Kufic Derham; he believes the coin to be genuine; and agrees with Mr. Marsden as to its value.

Mr. Mathew Young, dealer in coins, examined the whole Collection: observed the Kufic Derham; it is in fine preservation; believes it to be struck, not cast: such coins have never in this country sold for more than a guinea. He observed particularly a Thracian coin; considers it to have been cast, and worth only a few shillings; a genuine one, in fine condition, would be worth 100*l.* He estimates the whole Collection, according to what he is in the habit of charging for such coins, at 840*l.*

Mr. William Bankes, a member of the Committee, considered the Thracian coin as a cast, but being doubtless an exact impression from a true coin of extreme rarity; it may as such be worth 20*l.* to complete a series.

Mr. Francis Palgrave observed, that the appearance of a coin being cast, was not a proof of its being a modern forgery; ancient moulds and ancient furnaces for casting coins have been often found; the reason for employing these moulds has not been satisfactorily explained.

Antiquities.

Mr. Edward Landseer is acquainted with antiquities similar to those shown to him, and thinks them very valuable, and that the study of the hieroglyphical part of these gems may throw light on the inscriptions in the arrowhead character. He considers the cylinders to have been signets, and that their impression was given by rolling; with respect to pecuniary value, he remembered one of a similar kind, found at Marathon, being valued at from 15 to 20 guineas; valuing the

Collection at that rate, it would be worth about 3,000*l.*

Sir John Malcolm had looked over these Babylonish and Nineveh antiquities; thinks, from his own experience, that this Collection has been obtained at great cost: upon a cylindrical brick being shown him, covered with the arrowhead character, he says it is the best specimen he had ever seen; he would give 50*l.* for it; and he thinks Mr. Rich could not have expended less than four or five hundred pounds upon the remainder of this part of the Collection, independent of the gems.

Mr. William Bankes, a member of the Committee, estimated the value of the cylindrical brick at 50*l.*, and thinks it a great object to get together a large mass of the arrowhead and Cuneiform character, as the only chance hereafter of deciphering it.

Mr. Francis Palgrave considered the Collection of antiquities as very valuable, and thinks such a collection may lead to important results, when we see what Dr. Young and Mons^r Champollion have done with regard to Egyptian hieroglyphics; he thinks the collection of gems and other antiquities may be fairly worth 1,000*l.*

Dr. Noehden, Assistant Keeper of the Antiquities of the British Museum, thought that this Collection of Babylonish and Nineveh gems and antiquities would be a great acquisition to the Museum.

The Committee having considered the evidence adduced, submit to the House, that the sum of 5,500*l.* is a fair and reasonable price for this Collection of MSS.; the sum of 1,000*l.* for the Coins; and the sum of 1,000*l.* for the Babylonish and Nineveh Gems and Antiquities: and they recommend to the House, that the whole of the Collection of the late Mr. Rich be purchased at those prices, making altogether the sum of 7,500*l.*, and that it be placed in the British Museum for the benefit of the public.

THE WONDERFUL TRAVELLER.*

MR. HOLMAN, a blind gentleman, about 35 years of age, and possessed of an agreeable countenance, arrived in this city (Petersburgh) in July last, and, we understand, that he intends to visit a great part of the world. He inquires into every thing, and examines most bodies by the touch; which astonished us so much, that we could not have believed it, had we not seen it with our own eyes.† When he visited my cabinet, without my saying a word, I took him to the bust of the Emperor, made by Orlovskii; after feeling which a short time, he exclaimed—"This is the bust of the Emperor Alexander." It ought to be observed, that he had previously examined a bust of his Imperial Majesty, executed by Gesheron, in which, as Mr. Holman remarked, the forehead was more covered with hair. He also very justly observed, that the right ear was more perfect than the left in the bust by Orlovskii. Mr. Holman also recognized the busts of Peter the Great, Catharine II., Suvarof, &c. &c. he afterwards examined some Roman coins and medals: then, at my request, he wrote the following sentence in my album, with pen and ink:—"I had the pleasure of visiting Mr. Svein, on Tuesday, January 30th, O. S., 1823. James Holman."

Mr. Holman has a machine, by means of which he can write readily, and which is now made use of in most of the institutions for the blind.

* We are indebted for this account of Mr. Holman, *The Blind Traveller*, to Svein's Journal, one of the St. Petersburg periodicals. We understand that Mr. Holman's Travels in Russia, particularly in Siberia, are nearly ready for publication; and we anticipate much pleasure from their perusal, and also some amusement for our readers.

† It is well that Mr. Holman himself is not so sceptical as to demand such ocular proof.—Ed.

A week after his visit, Mr. Holman, on speaking to him in the English magazine, immediately knew my voice.

We believe Mr. Holman has not left unexamined a single place worth visiting at St. Petersburg. In the month of March he left this city for Moscow, whence he means to proceed into the interior of the country, with the intention of visiting the greater part of Russia. On his return to England he will, no doubt, publish the Journal of his Travels, since he furnished us with an agreeable specimen of his writing, last year, in an account of his Journey through France, Italy, &c., which was read before our Society, and afforded us all so much pleasure, that we could not withhold from the author the tribute of our praise. We do not doubt that his work will prove more agreeable than that produced by a former traveller.* Mr. Holman has ascended Mount Vesuvius, and approached so near the crater as to burn his shoes.

* This alludes to the late Dr. Clarke, with whom the Russians are very seriously angry. A nobleman of high rank once said, that "if he had hold of the rascal Clarke, he would hang him without trial." We fear that Dr. Lyall is no greater a favourite among the Russians; and as they unceremoniously sent Mr. Holman out of their dominions, they cannot expect much indulgence on his part.

FINE ARTS.

Rotterdam: an Engraving, in the Line-manner, by George Cooke, from a picture painted for the Earl of Essex, by A. W. Calcott, Esq. R. A. Published by Hurst, Robinson, and Co. and by W. B. Cooke.

This print is the first of a series to be engraved by Mr. G. Cooke, from the principal works of Mr. Calcott; and, judging from the specimen before us, and the names of the artists employed, we may very truly congratulate the lovers of the Fine Arts on the prospect of a publication every way calculated to do honour to the British School. On the present richly varied and interesting scene, both the pencil and the graver are brought to bear with the greatest advantage. The painting (if we may be allowed the expression) is translated in the most brilliant and varied style of execution, free from any of that mechanism which is too often introduced, for the sake of expedition, into a class of art which it is no way calculated to serve; but which frequently interferes with the freedom requisite in imitating the several materials of which a work is composed, where the leading feature is variety. In the management of the different lights, the lucid transparency of the water, and the other characteristics of the painter in this production, Mr. Cooke has been eminently successful; and we trust that the popularity of the series will be equal to the efforts thus made to deserve it.

We understand that the late Lady Bell's paintings (with the exception of family portraits) will shortly be disposed of by Mr. Christie. They consist principally of copies from Sir Joshua Reynolds, of celebrated ladies, and the only one of his picture of Sheridan ever permitted to be taken. They are very faithful. To these are added copies of several of the *chef d'œuvres* of Rubens, made by the permission of his Majesty in Carlton Palace, and which are unquestionably excellent imitations of that great master. Few persons have possessed so fine a sense of colour as this lady, which accounts probably for her success in copying the tints which Rubens adopted so happily.

DEDICATED BY PERMISSION TO THE KING.
Paradise Lost: by John Milton. Illustrated by John Martin, Esq. London 1825. S. Prowett.
THE first part of this noble work has just appeared. It consists of the first book, and three

hundred lines of the second; and is adorned by two designs on steel, by Martin, representing, 1. Satan hurled from Heaven; and, 2. His Appeal to his fallen Associates. Of the literary portion we need say nothing; of the typographical, only that it is handsome: but of that for which we are indebted to Mr. Martin some notice must be taken. We know no artist, whose genius so perfectly fitted him to be the illustrator of the mighty Milton; and in what we have seen of his conceptions he has more than realized the highest of our hopes. There is a wildness, a grandeur, and a mystery about his designs which are indescribably fine:—the painter is also a poet. It may be that the figures cannot possess the force and dignity with which the imagination clothes them: but the sweeping elements; the chaos come again; the wonders of that Heaven and Hell which existed before earth was made, are magnificently embodied. In short, we look upon these engravings to belong to the foremost order of true genius: beyond this there is no praise.

Fourteen Engravings, from Drawings of the Horse
By Howe. Edinburgh 1824.

THE merits of this publication are chiefly to be found in some of the Engravings by Lizars, Horsburgh, and others: of the Animals themselves, we cannot express the most favourable opinion. Accustomed as we have been to see the intellectual horses of Gilpin and Stubbs, the breathing likenesses of Ward (so replete with anatomical knowledge), and the nature of Garrard and Cooper, we are not easily to be satisfied. Though some of Mr. Howe's productions, therefore, might fairly pass muster; there are others of them which cannot escape censure. It is not necessary to specify the objections; and we are rather pleased to conclude, by again pointing attention to the firmness and style in several of the Horses, and to the freedom and grace very generally displayed in the back-ground foliage, and other accessories.

* The brevity of our Fine Arts Department in this Number shall be compensated next Saturday.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

THE PARTING.

ALONE, across the pathless seas,
The stately vessel glides;
With cloudless skies and favoring breeze,
An ocean queen she rides.
Within that ship, one gallant heart
Beats sadly its adieu,
And tear-drops to one bright eye start,
That dim its parting view.
Grieve not for him; he goes to seek
Fortune and fame afar;
The glow of hope is on his cheek;
His soul is in the war!
But grieve for her who stands alone
Upon the distant shore,
Weeping for that departed one,
Whom she shall see no more.
Few years may pass—and happily
The soldier may return;
But where will that forlorn one be?
Shrin'd in her silent urn!

March 23, 1825.

Rosa.

THE VETERAN TO HIS SON.

To arms, my son! the trumpet's note
Has sent its stirring tale afar;
From tower and tent the banners float,
From tower and tent the cry is war!
Take, thou, this sword, a father's gift,
To it a d to thy valor trust;
And never, never, mayst thou lift
So pure a steel in cause unjust.

From every baser metal free,

Its spotless light receives no stain;
Breathe on its polish'd edge, and see,
An instant—and 'tis bright again.

On then, and earn the laurel wreath,
And may thine early deeds of fame
So stainless be, that envy's breath
May cast no shadow on thy name.

Rosa.

SONNET.

On contemplating a beautiful Female Child Asleep.

Sweet Bud of Life! as blooming as the flower
Whose blushing blossoms vainly emulate
Thy loveliness, sleep!—reckless of the hour
When these unfolding beauties shall dilate
To woman's fullness, and enthrall men's hearts.
Yet, shall that cheek, where the vermilion
spreads

In softest tints; those lips, which scarce dispart
That dreaming smile, like the first light which
sheds

The beam of morning on a dewy rose;
Those silken fringes of the curtain'd eye;
And those dark curling locks which, on the snows
Of thy pure brow, like softest shadows lie,

All fade—alas! why, for so short a space is
given [Heaven?]
To changeful earth a form—the habitant of
March 28, 1825. A. T. T.

ELOCUTION:—READING.

On Thursday, Mr. Bartley concluded his Lent course of Lectures on Astronomy, having in this, as in former seasons, impressed the knowledge of this divine science on many a youthful mind in a way not to be forgotten. The mechanical representations are very fine; and Mr. Bartley's distinct and forcible mode of illustrating them cannot be too warmly praised.

Mentioning this subject, and noticing a faculty which renders it so effective, we are led to communicate a piece of intelligence which we obtained by chance,—which ought not to be confined to private circles,—and which we are certain will be valued by many who may wish to avail themselves of the means of improvement to which it refers. It may be remembered that Mrs. Bartley, a several oratorios, diversified the musical entertainments by reading various passages of dramatic and other poetry. Neither can the deserved applause which attended these admirable exhibitions of talent be forgotten. The clearness of her enunciation, the powers and flexibility of her voice; the taste, feeling, and understanding with which she delivered the sentiments of her authors—the proper emphasis and sound discretion, in short, which marked every line of her performance (if we may so term it), gave an interest to these readings which we never heard equalled but once. We are therefore gratified to learn that this lady has lately devoted her attention not only to the farther practice of this delightful art herself, but to the instruction of others of her own sex in an accomplishment so fascinating and intellectual. What her system and arrangements are we know not; but we are sure that numbers, after this intimation, will be prone to find them out. It is not in public that the ability to read well is most valuable: in the private and social circle it is an endless source of pleasure, and we are only astonished at the slight cultivation generally bestowed upon it.

MUSICAL MISCELLANIES.

Dr. WOLLASTON is said to have invented a new musical instrument, the tone of which is no louder than the voice of the cricket or of the grasshopper; and as it has been observed, that people advanced to the age of sixty can no longer hear those gen-

de animals, the Doctor is said to have made frequent experiments with old persons, in applying this instrument to ascertain their age. If they are not able to hear his performance on it, which to the younger ear is always perfectly audible, he concludes that they are above sixty.

Sir Everard Home lately tried the effect of music on an elephant and a lion, by treating them with a concert of stringed and wind instruments; and it is said, the animals were quiet and attentive, as long as the performers played in the higher octaves; but as soon as the lower grumbling notes were touched, they became instantly so mad and furious, that the concert was abruptly concluded.

The great Russian General, Field Marshal Count Münnich, once gave a concert to the Empress Catharine, which was as singular in its way as characteristic of the Russian nation. The music performed was, indeed, not different from that which is commonly heard in other concerts, but the bows of all the stringed instruments, of which there were above a hundred, had hair fixed to them, which was entirely taken from the Turkish standards, captured by Münnich from the enemies of his sovereignty.

Anecdote of the Crown Prince of Prussia.—When, a short time ago, the new opera of Olympia, by Spontini, of all the most trumpeting, drumming performances in existence, the most loud, was acted at Berlin; the Prince Royal, who, from patriotic motives, is no great friend to the composer, could not stand the noise any longer, and left the house. It happened, that at the moment of his coming out, the twelve fifers and as many drummers, who parade the streets of the capital every evening for the tattoo, passed by in full instrumental chorus. The Prince immediately addressed himself to his attendant, and exclaimed: "Heaven be thanked, that we hear again a little soft music!"

A Violin of Silver.—Leonardi da Vinci, the celebrated painter, passed at his time for an excellent violin player, and was even professionally engaged as such by the Duke of Milan, Ludovico Sforza. In the sketch of his life, prefixed to his treatise on painting, is this singular statement: "Vinci had a violin of silver made for him, which was shaped in the form of a horse's head; and he surpassed on this instrument all other violin players."—*Lessing's Collectaneer der Literatur.*

* Sancte Musik.

SKETCHES OF SOCIETY.

SIGHTS OF LONDON.—EGYPTIAN TOMB.

On Thursday the Egyptian Tomb, of which the model has been executed in Leicester Square by the widow (and companion in exploring it) of the lamented traveller, Belzoni, was opened for a private view, and visited by many noble persons and distinguished foreigners. On Monday this Exhibition will be public; and, apart from the philanthropic feelings which recommend it, we may vouch for its great literary and antiquarian interest. A new chamber is peculiarly rich in hieroglyphic figures; some of them very important, as tending to elucidate the mysteries of this early symbolical language. Trusting to the fidelity of the copies, we were much struck by several very novel combinations of sacred creatures with the human form. A beetle, as the head of a person, was one of these. In another place, the Isis was represented in an extraordinary manner; and, altogether, the place is well worthy of the inspection, not only of the learned, but of the curious.

POLITICS.

THE late discussions in the House of Commons have been unusually interesting to a Literary Journal. We have elsewhere inserted the curious Report on the purchase of Mr. Rich's Collection for the British Museum, which contains much information. On voting the annual grant for this establishment, we were delighted to hear, from all sides of the House, the most liberal opinions touching the propriety of adorning our great metropolis with buildings worthy of such a country—a palace fitting for the Monarch—a gallery for pictures in a central situation—the completion of Somerset-house—and apartments for the reception of the distinguished Societies which preside over the Learning, Sciences, and Fine Arts. In other respects, Mr. Peel and Mr. Huskisson respectively, have introduced important propositions for improving the laws and commerce of Great Britain.

VARIETIES.

A work is announced at Paris that will *faire du scandale, dit-on*; it is *La Biographie des Usuriers de Paris*. The author will render a real service to the public, if he expose the infamous system which every day gains ground in that capital, and ruins many. These scandalous speculators in the wants and miseries of the young and inexperienced, not only demand enormous interest, but force the fools who apply to them to take a considerable part of the sum proposed to be lent in merchandise. For instance, a young officer lately borrowed of a Jew 20,000 francs: the usurer counted down ten thousand, and for the remaining ten thousand gave him, what?—*marchandise!*—but what *marchandise*, think you? A camel, three apes, and a dozen parrots!

Among the Paris Sights there is a much-praised Panorama of Constantinople. A Diorama of Rouen is nearly ready.

A prospectus is abroad for forming an entirely new establishment for the representation of the Italian Opera.

There is, we learn, an extraordinary competition for the situation of Keeper of the British Gallery, held by the late Mr. Young. A great number of candidates have come forward.

In the Manfrin Palace is a small terracotta model of a Charity said to be by Michael Angelo, which, from its style and character, I am inclined to credit.

A piece, called *Jocko*, is acting with prodigious success, at the *Porte St. Martin*, in Paris. The grand attraction is an *Ape*, the hero, represented by Masurién, a dancer, who has acquired his perfection in the part by playing every day, and all day long, for months past, with the monkeys at the *Jardin des Plantes*! An apple was thrown at him one evening on the stage (probably by concert); but the way in which he munched it, *a la Singe*, raised him to as high a popularity among the Parisians, as a beastly intrigue would elevate an actor among the Cockneys.

Swimming Soldiers.—In a recent work on swimming, and its application to the art of war, by M. le Vicomte de Courtivron, a French field-officer, he recommended the formation of a company of swimming soldiers in every regiment, and describes the various important duties of which they would be capable, among which is even that of conducting cannon placed on rafts to any desired position!

Motive-power.—M. Granier, the Mayor of Trefort, in the department of Ain, in France, has published a description of a new means of producing, spontaneously, and at little expense, a Motive-power, capable of being applied to all mechanical purposes. M. Granier proposes to form a vacuum in the body of his pump, by the

combustion of the oxygen in atmospheric air, and thereby to produce an action on the piston by the pressure of the external air. But he does not seem in his calculation to have considered the space occupied by the carbonic acid, generated in combustion; he supposes that all the oxygen is absorbed; and he neglects many other effects to which he ought to have attended.

LITERARY NOVELTIES.

THE new novel of the Author of Waverley, entitled, "Tales of the Crusaders," will, we learn, form four volumes, containing two stories—"The Betrothed," and "The Talisman." There is little doubt of its being ready by the end of the month. The only cause of its long delay is, that the author has applied himself less assiduously on this occasion than he has been accustomed.

The Duke of Devonshire has bought the recently discovered first edition of Hamlet, from Messrs. Payne and Foss, at the price of nearly 200 guineas.—*Newspapers.*

There is forthcoming, in four 2vo. volumes, the whole Works of Robert Leighton, D.D. Archbishop of Glasgow; with a Life of the Author; by the Rev. J. N. Pearson, of Trinity College, Cambridge.

A History of the Christian Church, from its erection at Jerusalem to the present time; on the plan of Milner; by the Rev. John Fry, B.A. In one large volume 8vo. Mr. Penn has in the press, in two volumes octavo, a new edition of his Comparative Estimate of the Mineral and Mosal Geologies.

Mr. Phillips, author of *Pomarium Britannicum*, and other works, has just committed to the press his new volume, on which he has been so long engaged, entitled "Floral Emblems," containing, together with an account of the most beautiful picturesque devices employed in ancient and modern times, by celebrated painters and poets, a Grammar of the Language, &c.

There is preparing for publication by subscription, in a quarto volume, the *Memoirs of Selim-ed-Din*, Mohammed Baber, Emperor of Hindustan, King of Persia, Samarkand, Kabul, &c. Written by himself, in the Taghata Turki; and translated, partly by the late Dr. John Leyden, M.D. and partly by Wm. Erskine, Esq. With this work is to be given a Geographical and Historical Introduction; together with a Map of the Countries between the Oxus and Jaxartes; by Charles Waddington, Esq. of the East India Company's Engineers.

Travels of my Nightcap; or, *Reveries in Rhyme*; with *Scenes at the Congress of Verona*; by the author of *My Note Book*, or *Sketches from the Gallery of St. Stephen*,—is, in the press, and will be published shortly.

The anonymous author of *Wine and Walnuts*, is about to produce a Historical Novel, entitled the "Twenty-ninth of May." We dare say he will win for himself a garland of Royal Oak!

The Rev. Dr. Phillips is preparing a series of *Letters* to Mr. Butler, on the Theological parts of his Book of the Roman Catholic Church.

We understand that a work from the pen of Mr. Fraser, author of "A Tour in the Himala Mountains," is now in the press, which will introduce to the knowledge of the public some of the more distant countries to the north-east of Persia, a field hitherto untrod by modern travellers. Mr. Fraser traversed the extensive province of Khorassan, while in a state of great disturbance, with the intention of penetrating into Oshbeck Tartary; and we hear that his work contains some curious accounts of the fixed, and wandering population of these remote countries, and will make a valuable addition to our geographical knowledge; as he was enabled, by a very laborious series of astronomical observations, to fix the position of all the places in his route, including some of the most celebrated and interesting cities in that part of Asia. We hear, too, that Mr. Fraser has interspersed his work with a variety of anecdotes, characteristic of the King, Court, and Government of Persia, which are likely to be amusing as well as instructive; and having been an eye witness to the progress of that dreadful malady, the Epidemic Cholera, which appeared in Persia during his residence there, he has been enabled to give a particular account of its destructive effects in some of the chief cities of that country. On the whole, from what we have learnt regarding the nature of Mr. Fraser's intended publication, we look for its appearance with some interest. We understand it is likely to issue from the press about the beginning of June.

Danish Literature.—The second edition has lately been published, at Copenhagen, of a work on the Character, Manners, Opinions, and Language, of the Peasants of the northern part of the island of Zealand; by M. Jørgen. This is a very curious book, not only on account of the subject, but also in consequence of the lively manner in which that subject is treated. What must render it eminently useful to the Students of the Languages of the North, is a Dictionary which the author has added to it, of the dialect of the peasants in question.

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